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Yemeni minister sees end to Arab rift

ABU DHABI (AFP) — A rift among Arab states caused by the Gulf war will end soon, Yemeni Foreign Minister Mohammad Bassandawa has predicted. Mr. Bassandawa made the comments in a magazine interview after meeting Saudi King Fahd during an official visit to Saudi Arabia last week. "What I have heard from King Fahd made me optimistic that the coming stage will see great improvement in Yemeni-Saudi relations in particular and inter-Arab relations in general," Mr. Bassandawa told the United Arab Emirates (UAE) weekly magazine Al-Shuruf in an interview published Wednesday. Mr. Bassandawa said the Saudi king told him "what has happened happens among members of a family," and that "we all should not look back at the past but look at the present and the future and realise that our strength lies in our solidarity and unity." Mr. Bassandawa said the "built in Kuwait's court" to restore relations after Kuwaiti snubbed recent Yemeni overtures. Mr. Bassandawa's visit to Saudi Arabia and a previous trip to Bahrain were part of a Yemeni bid to mend fences with Gulf cooperation council nations — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and the UAE.

Yeltsin sacks security minister

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin dismissed Security Minister Viktor Barannikov Tuesday because of corrupt allegations against him and his handling of the Tajik-Afghan border crisis, Itar-Tass news agency said. Mr. Yeltsin also announced that he had asked a special committee to decide whether an investigation should be opened against Mr. Barannikov, the agency said. The news agency said Mr. Yeltsin had criticised Mr. Barannikov's management of Russian border troops, who have suffered heavy losses at the hands of Afghanistan-based Tajik rebels along the border. There have also been allegations the minister organised "trips abroad for his relatives," the agency said. Mr. Yeltsin announced several months ago he would crack down on nepotism and corruption in the government.

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Israelis raze Lebanese villages

More killed, hundreds of thousands displaced in savage attacks

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAELI EXPANDED its aerial and artillery offensive in Lebanon Tuesday, pounding villages to send a stream of frightened refugees flooding north towards Beirut, in a declared move to raze villages near the border.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin explained to parliament's defence and foreign affairs committee: "Our aim is clear: We want to provoke an exodus from southern Lebanon towards the north in order to put pressure on the Beirut government and to hit those who collaborate with Hizbollah."

A flood of terrified civilians fled southern Lebanon to escape the three-day inferno of Israeli air strikes and shells.

Security sources said more than 14 civilians and guerrillas had been killed and 123 wounded on Tuesday, taking the known toll for the three-day Israeli blitz to at least 51 killed and 254 wounded. Planes, helicopters and artillery repeatedly hit a string of villages and towns north of Israel's "security zone" in the south on the third day of "operation accountability."

The offensive, the most extensive air and artillery bombardment since Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982 to expel Palestinian guerrillas, sent tens of thousands of terrified civilians fleeing north. The guerrillas, defying the hammering, fired seven Katyusha rockets at northern Israel. Israeli security sources said several Israelis were injured under a rocket hit Israel.

The Israeli army said planes and helicopters started from Tuesday morning attacking targets near and within towns and villages on a broad front north of the 80 kilometre wide "security zone."

It said in a statement raids inside villages began after residents were called to evacuate them and Israeli artillery was



Smoke from Israeli bombardments Tuesday billows behind houses in Nabatieh in South Lebanon (AFP)

Christopher cuts short Asian visit, but Mideast mission to go ahead

Clinton praises Syria; blames Iran for flare-up

Combined agency dispatches

SECRETARY of State Warren Christopher cut short his visit to Asia Tuesday to return to Washington and confer on escalating violence in the Middle East before heading there next weekend as previously planned.

"I have been following the dramatic escalation of violence to southern Lebanon and northern Israel with great concern and I will be discussing the impact of these events on the peace process," Mr. Christopher said in a brief announcement distributed to reporters shortly before his hastily arranged departure.

The White House Tuesday accused Iran and Hizbollah of trying to torpedo Middle East peace talks by picking a fight with

Israeli forces in southern Lebanon.

"I think they clearly instigated this. Hizbollah has the backing of the Iranian government and they are enemies of the peace process," White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers said.

Ms. Myers lashed out at Tehran and the pro-Iranian Hizbollah in Lebanon after President Bill Clinton praised Syria for what he called "commendable restraint" in the face of the clashes in southern Lebanon.

"I think this administration — the president, Secretary Christopher and others — are committed to not letting enemies of the peace process disrupt or interrupt or dismantle it in any way," she said.

Mr. Clinton said he hoped the

situation in Lebanon will not threaten the Middle East peace process.

Asked during a meeting at the White House if the rise in violence in Lebanon would endanger the peace process, Mr. Clinton said, "I hope not. I certainly have no reason to believe it is. But obviously I'm concerned about it."

Mr. Clinton said Mr. Christopher would return to Washington from the Far East before going to the Middle East "because I want to talk to him about the Middle East before he goes there."

Mr. Clinton said, "I think the Syrians have shown commendable restraint."

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Arabs voice outrage

Combined agency dispatches

ARABS expressed outrage Tuesday at the bombardment of Lebanon, accusing Israel of wanting to scuttle the peace process and shift the agenda of this week's mission by the U.S. secretary of state.

Syria, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Egypt and Iraq were among a host of Arab and Muslim countries to condemn Israel's aggression in northern Lebanon and call for international intervention to halt the bombardment.

The Israeli attack was "jeopardising the peace process," the Syrian government said.

Syrian radio said that the Israeli attacks were aimed at "provoking a violent Syrian reaction, sowing discord and shifting the agenda of (U.S. Secretary of State) Warren Christopher's visit."

Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri had talks with Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam in Damascus Tuesday, officials said.

They gave no details about the talks.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) warned the Israeli action would have "destructive consequences" on the peace process.

Quoted in Tunis by the Palestinian news agency Wafa, a PLO spokesman said the Israeli bombardments "open the way for an escalation of violence" and called for a high-level Arab summit to mobilise support for Lebanon.

Egypt said it had asked Israel to stop the attacks immediately, and urged both Israelis and Arabs

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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday confers with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz (centre). Iraqi Ambassador Ibrahim Noori Alwayyes is at left (Petra photo by Boghos)

Regent expresses alarm over Lebanon situation

King's visits to France, Turkey highly important

Majali, House denounce Israeli assault

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday expressed alarm and concern over the deteriorating situation in Lebanon in the wake of repeated Israeli attacks on that country.

The Regent, talking to reporters after a meeting with visiting Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, said there was a great fear that the stability of the Middle East could be shattered and that the region could be torn apart and racially and ethnically Balkanised.

"When we talk about Lebanonisation and see the few past years and the optimism that started with the reconstruction process (in Lebanon), we see these hopes shattered by this widespread aggression," he said.

Prince Hassan expressed his belief that this concern preoccupies every Arab and every Muslim within this context.

"I would like to reiterate what I said in the presence of the Turkish foreign minister, (Hikmet Cetin, on Monday), that the situation will not last, and it cannot be a sound basis for stability and peace. Violence always breeds violence," he added.

In reply to a question on His Majesty King Hussein's visits to France and Turkey this week and next week, Prince Hassan said it was imperative to convey to the world the importance of Jordan and its political and geographic role.

"The Kingdom has a central and vital role in this region of the world and the best who can do such a mission is His Majesty the King during his contacts in France and Turkey," he said.

In reply to another question on whether the Israeli aggression on Lebanon might affect the planned visit by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, the Regent said: "I cannot add to the American statement in this regard which voiced concern and fear that the continuation of violence and fighting would affect the visit and the peace process."

Mr. Aziz said the last visit by a U.N. inspection team to Iraq was a good chance for both sides to bold negotiations on various issues. (See story below)

Iraq, he said, is keen to deal with these issues in an objective and constructive manner "and that is why we managed to achieve positive results and to resolve some problems temporarily."

He said Iraq and the inspection team agreed to continue their dialogue in New York and in Baghdad to tackle thorny problems between the two sides and expressed hope that such meetings will contribute to more understandings between the two sides and consequently lifting "the unjust embargo imposed on Iraq since three years."

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the Regent's talks with Mr. Aziz dealt with Jordanian-Iraqi relations as well as regional and international issues of common interest.

The meeting, which included a lunch, was attended by Royal Court Chief Khalid Al Karaki, Minister of Information Ma'an Abu Nowar, Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Jawad Al Anani, the King's adviser Ihsan Shurdam and Iraqi ambassador to Jordan Noori Ismail Alwayyes.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali told Jordan Television that Israeli attacks on Lebanon

were provocation that impedes the peace process.

"Everytime there is a move to stimulate the peace process, everytime a minister visits the region on the eve of the resumption of the peace talks, Israel creates a new provocation. Dr. Majali said, "It is not the first time when Israel resorts to poisoning the atmosphere of the peace negotiations."

"This atmosphere is not conducive to peace, and does not prompt one to speak about peace while people, especially civilians, get killed," he added.

"Israel claims that it has been exposed to attacks by certain factions in Lebanon but such aggression is disproportionate in magnitude to the alleged attacks," Dr. Majali added.

The Lower House of Parliament said in a statement that the Israeli actions were a cause for deep concern.

"The Jordanian Parliament strongly condemns this brutal aggression under the nose of the United Nations and those who brag about their keenness on defending the international legitimacy and human rights," the statement said.

"Southern Lebanon is an integral part of the Arab territories occupied by Israel for a long time, and its inhabitants have all the right to resist occupation and defend their country's sovereignty," it said.

"Past Israeli acts of aggression resulted only in more determination on the part of the resistance forces to liberate their occupied land," it said. "All such acts of aggression can by no means ensure security and peace for Israel, which should withdraw from all Lebanese lands in implementation of U.N. resolutions."

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Regent, Hassan II condemn attacks

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and King Hassan II of Morocco Tuesday exchanged views on the situation in Lebanon and the new Israeli attacks against it. In a telephone conversation, the two condemned the attacks, with King Hassan expressing his regret over the current Arab situation.

Decree approves ties with Bosnia

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Tuesday approving a Cabinet decision to establish diplomatic relations between Jordan and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Jordan's ambassador to Austria will serve as non-resident ambassador to the republic.

3 U.N. soldiers wounded in air strike

TYRE, Lebanon (AFP) — Three Nepalese U.N. peacekeeping soldiers were injured Tuesday in an Israeli helicopter strike on South Lebanon, security sources said. The soldiers of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) were injured as a Nepalese U.N. position in the village of Henniyyeh, near the port city of Tyre, they said.

Armenia denies links with Turkish Kurds

MOSCOW (AFP) — Armenia Tuesday denied allegations that it had links with Kurdish separatists in Turkey and accused Ankara government officials of attempting to stir anti-Armenian feelings. ITAR-TASS reported. In a note of protest, the Armenian foreign ministry said the rebel Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) had no representation in Yerevan, contrary to allegations made by Turkish Interior Minister Mehmed Gaziroglu and the governor of the Turkish district under a state of emergency.

Majali, citing loopholes in Election Law, says there is a need to change it

Prime minister speaks of Israeli readiness to withdraw from occupied Jordanian land and restore Kingdom's water rights

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In the strongest indication yet that the Majali government is moving towards introducing electoral changes, the prime minister Tuesday cited loopholes in the current Election Law, saying "there is a need to change it."

Dr. Abdul Salam Majali was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as telling a group of Salt notables that there is a need to amend the law "since it has many gaps in it."

"If the change aims at ensuring further democratic gains, no one should object to the changes," Dr. Majali was quoted as saying.

Noting that His Majesty King Hussein has called for a national dialogue on the issue, however, Dr. Majali said that "such a dialogue is now going on in the media and the press."

But he added that "Nothing can be imposed anyone if the changes do not serve public interest."

Referring to the peace process, the prime minister said the fundamental achievements of the Arab-Israeli negotiations have so far included "an Israeli recognition of (Jordan's) 1948 international borders and of the need to return the 350 square kilometres of (Jordanian territory) occupied by Israel."

He said other achievements included an Israeli recognition of the need to settle the Palestinian refugees problem and "return our rights in the waters of the Jordan and Yarmouk rivers." The prime minister did not elaborate on his statement.

"As far as the Palestinian track (of the negotiations) is concerned, much has been achieved but I leave it to (the Palestinians) to announce what was achieved in the suitable time and way for them," said the prime minister.



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Tuesday meets with a group of Salt notables (Petra photo)

emerged as the sole superpower, he found that its interests lie in establishing security and peace in the Middle East region," Dr. Majali said.

He said that since security and peace cannot be achieved without the settlement of the Palestinian issue, the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Arabs and Israelis have opted to embark on the peace process starting in Madrid.

"The Arabs had to interact with world developments, and the Jordanians and the Palestinians have jointly set up a delegation determined never to give up any right," the premier said.

He said that in spite of the obstacles placed by the Israeli governments, Jordan has been

demanding the implementation of U.N. resolutions and the exchange of land for peace.

He said political parties which had failed in the past to serve the society now have the opportunity to benefit from the earlier experiments and to pursue a path that can best ensure the national interest.

Referring to the economic situation in Jordan, Dr. Majali said that the Gulf crisis had had heavy consequences on the Kingdom. He said among the difficulties were the continuing harassment of international shipping and the interception and search of all Aqaba-bound vessels. This

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U.N. installs cameras in Iraq

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — A U.N. team on Tuesday installed three out of six surveillance cameras at two Iraqi missile test sites and praised the Iraqi authorities for their cooperation.

Bill Eckert, leader of the team of three Americans, said the three cameras would not be activated pending talks on long-term monitoring of Iraq's post-war military potential at the United Nations in New York at the end of August or early September.

He refused to specify where the cameras were installed.

The six cameras were to be set up at the Yawm Al Azim and Rafah sites, around 60 kilometres south of Baghdad, as a final step in the interim solution to a crisis that threatened to unleash U.S. air strikes on Iraq earlier this month.

"Technical cooperation (with the Iraqis) on this job is really excellent," Mr. Eckert said.

He said the team still had "electrical" work to do and he refused to indicate when the experts would be leaving Iraq.

"We still have questions that we are working on," he added on his return from the sites.

Meanwhile, Maurizio Zifferero, Italian head of a U.N. nuclear arms team in Iraq on a routine mission, said Iraq had

pledged to provide the United Nations with a list of its suppliers after the start of the New York talks.

"We were told there is willingness on the Iraqi side to open and discuss these files. They asked us to be patient and wait for the start of the talks," Mr. Zifferero said.

"There is an expectation from our side that this promise will hold and that some of the most important information will be finally given," he added.

Mr. Zifferero said Iraq expected the talks with U.N. officials to "provide an adequate occasion to come forward with some kind of sign of goodwill."

His team is to leave Iraq Wednesday.

During their stay the team visited four former nuclear sites which Iraq is trying to use for other activities.

"We checked the drawings," he said, "and we are working on the type of activities which will be pursued" there.

The team also inspected the Taji industrial complex north of Baghdad, Mr. Zifferero said, adding that some of its production should be placed under surveillance.

Mr. Zifferero, deputy director of the U.N.'s International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said he had received the assurances that the nuclear files would be open from Humam Abdul Khaliq Abdul Ghafur, minister of higher education and scientific research.

But Mr. Zifferero, who heads a team of U.N. inspectors which arrived in Baghdad on Friday primarily to prepare for removal of Iraq's remaining stocks of irradiated-uranium fuel, said the minister had not set a specific time for opening the files.

"He offered to open this file in a manner satisfying our request," Mr. Zifferero said, but added that the minister asked him "to be patient and wait until we start technical talks."

Iraq argues that revealing names will make individuals liable to prosecution in their own countries and targets of assassination by Israeli agents.

Iraq and the United Nations are due to hold talks about Iraq's compliance to date with Gulf war ceasefire terms requiring it to scrap its weapons of mass destruction.

Iraq hopes to show that it has complied with requirements so that it can resume exports of oil, now blocked under a U.N. trade embargo clamped after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990.

Israel faces stubborn force in Hizbollah

By Samia Nakhouli
Reuter

BEIRUT — Hizbollah fighters, driven by a Shi'ite Muslim zeal to fight Israel to the death, are proving to be ruthless and determined enemies.

The name "Hizbollah" comes from a phrase in the Koran — "The Party of God, they are victorious."

Inspired by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's Islamic revolution in Iran, the group holds that Israel must cease to exist and Western influence curbed in Lebanon, which it would like to turn into an Iran-style Islamic state.

The burden of their ready-to-die zeal is now falling on the mainly Shi'ite Muslim villagers who live next to a South Lebanon buffer strip occupied by Israel.

Israeli planes and artillery are pounding the area in what Israeli press reports say is a deliberate effort to drive out the civilian inhabitants, who have long been among Lebanon's poorest and most down-trodden citizens and are a major source of Hizbollah recruits.

Israel hopes that a flood of refugees fleeing north will force Lebanon's pro-Syrian government to abandon its hands-off attitude to Hizbollah and Palestinian guerrillas and use its army to curb them.

Hizbollah, for its part, hopes to trigger massive retaliation that would sabotage Arab-Israeli peace talks, entangle the Jewish state in a costly and unpopular war and spell the end of Israeli occupation in the buffer zone.

It launched a wave of attacks against Israeli forces and their local ally, the South Lebanon Army, this month, killing eight Israeli soldiers.

Israel hit back by unleashing its heaviest air strikes on Lebanon since its 1982 invasion. At least 60 people — Lebanese civilians, Syrian soldiers, Palestinian and Hizbollah guerrillas and Israeli soldiers and civilians — were killed in the barrage which began on Sunday. More than 161 were wounded.

"We will continue resistance because the occupation of our land is a continued aggression that we can never accept... the aggressor must pull out so the problem ends," Sheikh Naim Kassem, Hizbollah's deputy secretary-general, said Monday.

"The problem will not end through the enemy's threats... Israeli intimidation will not achieve its goals in curbing the resistance," Sheikh Kassem added.

A Beirut radio quoted Sheikh Kassem as saying Hizbollah "is proud to cherish the goal of sabotaging the Arab-Israeli peace talks."

Israeli leaders say the offensive was vital to discipline Hizbollah.

"We want to make unequivocally clear that if there is no quiet here, there will be no quiet for the residents of South Lebanon north of the 'security zone,'" Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said while touring the border strip Monday.

Saying it wants to protect its northern town from guerrilla raids Israel set up the 15-km-deep "security zone" in 1985 after pulling out the bulk of its 1982 invasion force.

Hizbollah emerged in Lebanon when 800 Iranian Revolutionary Guards moved to the Bekaa Valley in eastern Lebanon in 1982 to fight the Israelis.

The Iranians concentrated on spreading Ayatollah Khomeini's doctrine.

Recruiting grounds were southern villages inhabited by Muslim Shi'ites, and Beirut slums to which many Shi'ites migrated during Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war.

Shi'ites have long been excluded from significant power in Lebanon but are approaching, or may already be, a majority of the country's people.

Their southern heartland has felt Israel's military blows for more than two decades.

When the blows were aimed at Palestinian guerrillas, the Shi'ites mostly suffered apolitical frustration.

But with the 1982 invasion, the Shi'ites began to strike back, tormenting the West and Israel with suicide bombings, hostage-taking and assassinations.

Suicide truck bombings killed more than 60 people at the U.S. embassy in April 1983 and 241 U.S. servicemen and 58 French paratroopers of the multinational force in October that year.

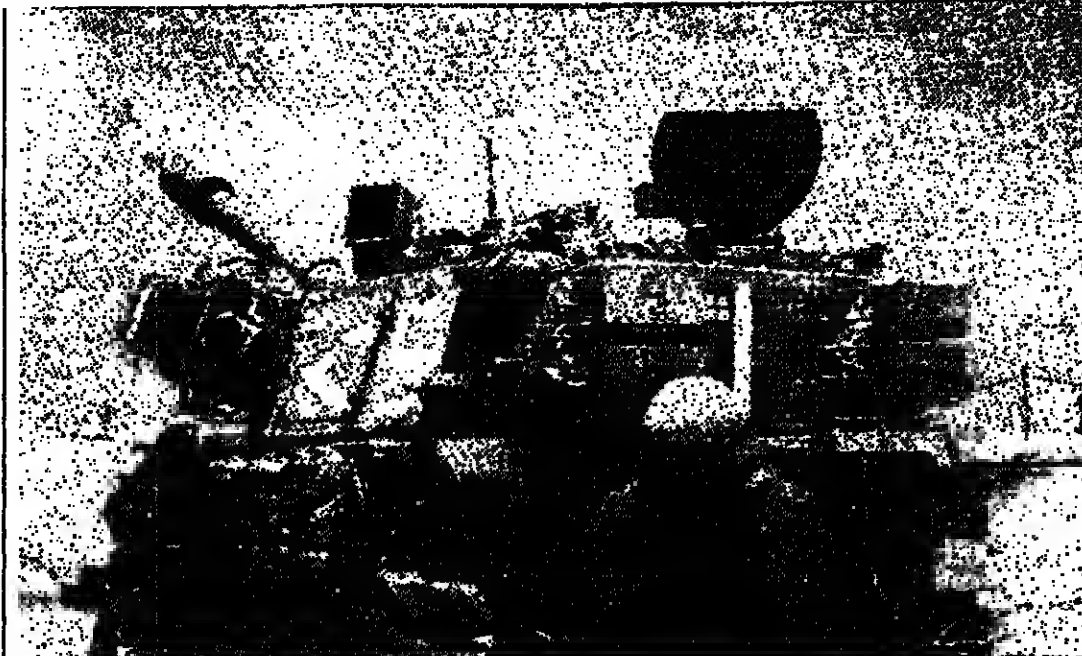
Fundamentalist sources put the number of Hizbollah fighters at 3,000 and 10,000. The group, armed and financed by Iran, is run by a 12-man shura or advisory council.

Its spiritual mentor is Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, although he denies any direct role in running the group.

Among Middle East groups, Hizbollah is the one most opposed to a U.S.-sponsored negotiation between Israel and the Arabs.

Hizbollah stepped up its raids on the Jewish state as the peace process began in October 1991, in the hope of sabotaging them by triggering massive Israeli retaliation.

But its strategy has not succeeded yet and the 2-month-old talks continue.



An Israeli soldier covers his ears Tuesday as artillery fire on villages in South Lebanon (AFP photo)

Israeli assault to last weeks

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's air and artillery assault on Hizbollah and Palestinian bases in Lebanon will go on for two weeks, official sources warned Tuesday, the third day of the operation.

"The current phase of fighting should last at least one week," the sources said as the casualty toll of the assault rose to 47 dead with more than 160 wounded, mostly civilians.

"The whole operation will go on for two weeks and end up with a U.S. diplomatic initiative," the sources said.

The coordinator of Israeli activities in Lebanon, Uri Lubrani, told Israel radio: "It will take time for the authorities in Beirut and Damascus, under the pressure of the exodus of people from southern Lebanon, to intervene and stop Hizbollah."

The cabinet met Monday night but decided for the time being not to send ground troops to follow up the biggest Israeli strike in Lebanon in a decade. The cabinet was to meet again Tuesday to assess the situation.

Two Israeli civilians and a soldier have been killed in retaliatory rocket attacks. An army spokesman said 25 civilians and five soldiers have also been wounded from a total of 160 Katyusha rockets.

Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who has called for restraint on all sides, cut short a South Asian visit Tuesday to return to Washington for consultations on the fighting.

He was still scheduled to arrive in Israel Sunday to a bid to push ahead the U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace talks.

Israel has offered to halt the operation if the pro-Iranian Hizbollah and Palestinian groups, which oppose the peace process, cease fire.

But two salvos of Katyusha rockets crashed into northern Israel on Tuesday morning, military sources said. No casualties were reported.

Israel's northern region commander Yitzhak Mordechai said Tuesday "the Israeli army has achieved initial targets."

The objectives were in the long term to guarantee the security of the more than 150,000 people living in northern Israel, strengthen the "security zone" in South Lebanon and to ensure the army's freedom of manoeuvre, General Mordechai said.

Military sources said the operation had already gone through three phases: Air raids on 10 Hizbollah and Palestinian bases, then another 39 bases, and now heavy artillery fire to force an exodus from southern Lebanon.

The ports of Tyre and Sidon are also blockaded by the Israeli navy, the sources said.

A fourth phase is to severely damage the villages. More than 5,000 shells have already been fired into Lebanon since Sunday morning, the sources said.

According to Israel's leading military commentator, Zeev Schiff, "the operation has not reached maximum level."

But he doubted whether Beirut and Damascus would succumb so easily to pressure to disarm Hizbollah as the government hopes.

He expected Syria to continue allowing arms ships from Tehran to reach Hizbollah.

But Chief of Staff Ehud Barak has warned: "If the Lebanese government is unable to impose its will on Hizbollah, the Israeli army will do it."

The U.N. Security Council was scheduled to debate later Tuesday the heaviest Israeli intervention in Lebanon for eight years after a call from the Beirut government.

Israel has told the council it was acting in "self-defence" after a sharp increase in attacks on northern Israel and its "security zone." Fifteen Israeli soldiers have been killed in the zone so far this year compared to 13 for the whole of 1992.

In Paris, the Israeli ambassador to France, Yehuda Lancy, said the Israeli military assault in Lebanon "has a very limited goal" and that "we are a long way from a war like the one of 1982."

He said the operations were intended "to restore everyday security."

"Israel has been the target of violent terrorist attacks in the past few weeks, which have resulted in the deaths of several Israeli soldiers," he said in an interview on France Info radio.

"Many places in northern Israel from Rosh-Hanikrah on the coast to Metulla and Kiryat-Shemona in the east have been hit daily by surface-to-surface rockets, which have caused a lot of damage and sometimes many casualties."

"While being closely involved in the peace process, Israel cannot neglect its security in the north of the country or the 150,000 Israeli citizens living on the border, because Hizbollah, the gravedigger of the peace process, wants it to fail and to kill as many Israelis as possible."

Son visits Demjanjuk in cell

TEL AVIV (AP) — John Demjanjuk's son visited his father in prison Tuesday, two days before the supreme court was to rule whether the retired Ohio auto worker should hang as the Nazi camp guard "Ivan the Terrible."

Demjanjuk's defence attorney, Yoram Sheftel, said Tuesday he was convinced his client would be set free.

Some legal experts believe that the new evidence raised during the appeal created enough questions about his identity to overturn the conviction.

One press report Tuesday quoted a Demjanjuk guard as saying the inmate was optimistic.

Israeli police, meanwhile, said they put the final touches on "operation justice" — Demjanjuk's maximum security transport Thursday morning from Ayalon prison in the town to Ramle to the high court in occupied Jerusalem, about 40 kilometres away.

Prison services spokesman Duhli Ben-Ami said officials were preparing for all possibilities, including that someone might want to harm Demjanjuk on his way to or from court.

The Yedioth Ahronoth daily said Demjanjuk would be guarded by dozens of members of the prison services' elite "Nahshon" unit, and that there would be heavy police presence in court.

The report also said police have stepped up patrols near the homes of the five supreme court justices since last weekend, though there were no plans to post permanent guards.

Sheftel refused comment when asked where the stateless Demjanjuk would go if acquitted.

Demjanjuk, 73, was stripped of his U.S. citizenship in 1981 for lying in immigration documents about his alleged Nazi past. Officials at the Ukrainian embassy in Israel have said that as a Ukrainian native, he was eligible for Ukrainian citizenship.

Sheftel said Demjanjuk's son, John, and his son-in-law, Ed Nishnie, met with the inmate at his maximum security cell for about three hours Tuesday. He did not provide details.

Yedioth quoted Demjanjuk as telling a guard: "I'm optimistic and believe the supreme court will acquit me on all counts."

Demjanjuk was convicted and sentenced to death in April 1988 after five survivors of the Treblinka camp identified him as "Ivan," the brutal gas chamber operator who tortured and mutilated victims on their way to death. Some 850,000 people were killed to Treblinka in Nazi-occupied Poland in 1932-42.

NEWS IN BRIEF

China deeply regrets Lebanon tension

PEKING (R) — China, one of five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, said Tuesday it deeply regretted the increase in tension in southern Lebanon after Israeli warplanes launched air raids on guerrilla targets.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman, quoted by the Xinhua news agency, said: "Recently, there has been a sharp escalation of military action in southern Lebanon, which has caused casualties of the people there, including some civilians, and given rise to the renewed tension in that region."

"We deeply regret this development and hope that the parties concerned will exercise restraint and try to prevent the situation from further worsening, so as to avoid adverse effects brought from further worsening," China, eager therefrom on the current Middle East peace process.

China, eager to play a more active role in the Middle East, established diplomatic ties with Israel last year. It has maintained strong links with Arab states and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), giving it full diplomatic status. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat was giving a full diplomatic status to Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Yang Fuchang Monday during a brief stopover at Peking airport on his way to North Korea.

ICRC urges Israel, guerrillas to spare civilians

GENEVA (AP) — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) appealed Monday to Israel and Lebanon-based guerrillas to avoid hitting civilians in the latest outbreak of cross-border fighting.

"The recent operations have increased the toll of civilian casualties and led to the destruction of civilian property in Lebanon and in northern Israel," said a statement from the Swiss-run committee. More than 60 people have been killed and over 100 wounded on both sides. Thousands of civilians have been hiding in shelters or fleeing the border area. The ICRC asked "all parties involved in military operations in Lebanon and Israel to respect international humanitarian law, and in particular to spare the civilian population and civilian property."

The committee, which is mandated under the Geneva conventions on the conduct of war to seek adherence from all sides to the international agreements, said it was "deeply concerned about these latest developments and their consequences in humanitarian terms in both Lebanon and northern Israel."

Somalis escape to Irian Jaya

JAKARTA (R) — Two Somali youths, facing deportation by Indonesia, have fled to the remote province of Irian Jaya, Antara news agency reported Tuesday. The two, aged 19 and 14, escaped more than a week ago from West Timor where they were being held in custody for entering the country without visas. The report did not explain how the officials knew the youths were in Irian Jaya, the Indonesian half of the island of New Guinea.

Civilian Muslim activist killed in Algeria

ALGIERS (R) — A factory worker kidnapped by masked gunmen was found dead with his throat cut and five bullet wounds near his home in an Algiers suburb Monday, the official news agency AFS reported. It said Mustapha Baba, 38, was abducted the day before. His death brought to at least 64 the number of civilians, including a journalist and three magistrates, killed in the last seven months in attacks blamed on Muslim fundamentalists. The agency also reported an activist armed with a shotgun was shot dead in Baba Ali-15 kilometres south of Algiers, bringing to at least 408 the number of activists slain by security forces since December. State radio reported that a special court in the western town of Oran sentenced a Muslim activist prisoner and two fugitives to death Monday for trying to kill two policemen. Two prisoners and five fugitives were sentenced to life in prison and six were jailed for between 10 and 20 years each. So far 152 Muslim activists have been sentenced to death since last year. Six were executed early this year.

Turkoman leader reports Iraqi clampdown

ANKARA (R) — An Iraqi opposition leader said Tuesday that Iraqi authorities had rounded up 3,000 Turkomans accused of evading military service and hanged seven of them. Muzaffer Arslan, Ankara-based head of the Iraqi National Turkoman Party, told Reuters the men, aged between 18 and 30, had been seized last week in the northern city of Kirkuk. "They were taken to a military camp at Daraman and more than 10 died from heat and poor food and medical conditions," Mr. Arslan said. "Seven were executed without judicial process to make the people afraid of the Iraqi regime."

He said the news had come from five or six Turkomans who had escaped from the camp, just north of Kirkuk and made their way to Erbil, the main city in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq. No independent confirmation of the report was available. Mr. Arslan urged the United Nations, Turkey and other countries to do more to end what he called an Iraqi policy of genocide. "Otherwise the Bosnian tragedy will be repeated against the Turkomans in Iraq," he declared. The Turkomans, ethnically related to Turks, form a small minority in Iraq. Many live in Kirkuk, which lies south of the Kurdish-held region protected by Western air patrols.

Cholera outbreak in Afghanistan serious

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — An outbreak of cholera in Afghanistan is serious, a U.N. report released here said Wednesday. Cholera cases have been reported from 14 of Afghanistan's 29 provinces, according to the report issued by the office of the U.N. coordinator for humanitarian assistance for Afghanistan, Sotirios Mousouris. The report said a World Health Organisation team which visited Kabul from July 14 to 16 found that 3,000 people showing cholera symptoms were admitted to hospitals in the Afghan capital during the period. The Afghan government has officially declared a cholera outbreak and established a national coordination committee in which different U.N. agencies are taking part, the report said. A U.N. task force was also set up by Mr. Mousouris last week to meet regularly and take action to address the cholera outbreak in Afghanistan, it added.

Yemen gets new minister for labour

SANAA (AP) — Yemen President Ali Abdullah Saleh announced Tuesday he has appointed Mohammad Abdullah Al Battani as minister for insurance, social affairs and labour. He succeeded Mohammad Ali Haimen, who died earlier this month of a heart attack. Mr. Battani served as interior minister in what was Marxist South Yemen before its May 1990 merger with North Yemen.

Hunt goes on for kidnapped French tourists in Turkey

TATVAN, Turkey (Agencies) — Security forces Tuesday were combing a mountainous area south of this eastern Turkish town for four French tourists kidnapped by Kurdish rebels three days earlier.

Sources in Ankara said family members of the four Frenchmen were expected to arrive in the Turkish capital later in the day following expectations that they would be released within a few days.

However, authorities here still "had no news" of the kidnapped four and security forces had stepped up the hunt in the mountains between Tatvan and Hizan, 50 kilometres to the southeast, a local official told AFP.

On Monday a spokesman in Paris for the National Liberation Front of Kurdistan, a satellite of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) which seized the tourists, said the four were being held with an Englishman and his Australian woman cousin kidnapped in the same region on July 5.

A source close to the administration in Diyarbakir coordinating the army's campaign against the PKK in the heart of mainly Kurdish southeastern Anatolia said Tuesday that it was without news of the four.

Israel treads tightrope between war and peace

By Neil MacFarquhar
The Associated Press

TEL AVIV — The line between scattered shelling and outright war can disintegrate quickly in the Middle East. With its largest attacks on targets in Lebanon in a decade, Israel walks perilously close to that line.

But by directing both verbal and steel barrages on an Islamic militia and not any neighbouring governments, it hopes to stop the deadly rocket attacks on its northern towns without jeopardising upcoming peace talks shepherded by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

The 18-month-old peace process has weathered major clashes before. But at some threshold — likely direct clashes between the Israeli and Syrian armies — the violence will push negotiators away from the table.

"Now it's small potatoes, yes, but all small potatoes in the Middle East can escalate into something enormous and dangerous," said Major General Shlomo Gazit, former head of military intelligence.

Arah peace negotiators warned Monday that the peace talks, supposed to get a much-needed shot of adrenaline with Mr. Christopher's Aug. 1 arrival in the region, were in jeopardy.

But past threats that the talks were collapsing have proved hollow. Israeli officials seemed to count on previous experience that Arab public opinion angered by Israeli attacks was not strong enough to sway governments, and none appears interested in a war.

Israel invaded Lebanon, for example, with the ink barely dry on its peace treaty with Egypt and the treaty held.

The wild card is Lebanon's Hizbollah. The Party of God makes no secret of its desire to wreck the peace talks.

It is armed by Iran. It trains on territory in Lebanon where the Syrian army holds sway. All those governments support its claim of the right to hit Israel because the Israeli army occupies a broad swath of southern Lebanon designed to stop cross-border attacks. The murky lines of responsibility present Israel with its problem on how to stop attacks that killed seven soldiers in the past month.

"It must respond to deter attacks, but it knows that Hizbollah is deterred only by God," columnist Zvi Gilat wrote in the daily Yedioth Ahronoth.

Guerrillas responded to Sunday's air raids with an unprecedented rain of Katyusha rockets that killed two and wounded 24 Israelis over the past two days. Israel believes that heavy return shelling of villages in Lebanon and hints of escalation will push Beirut and, more important, Damascus to reign in Hizbollah.

"We should not underestimate the Syrian influence in Lebanon," Jacques Neriah, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's diplomatic adviser and a member of Israel's negotiating team with Syria, told a briefing of the foreign press corps Monday.

But he stressed that Israel was not interested in challenging Syria.

"We are not fighting Syria. We don't want any confrontation with Syria," he said.

If Hizbollah does not stop, further escalation poses all kinds of problems for Israel, including clashes with either the Lebanese or Syrian army that could well shatter the peace talks.

The issue of possible ground action by Israel raises domestic fears about a repeat of the 1982 Lebanon invasion that kept its army bogged down for three years and left over 1,000 Israeli soldiers dead.

"We are all living in trauma from the Lebanon war," said Sholomit Aloni, the communications minister. "There is some disquiet that things could roll into distant waters in far places."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Le Mythoman
19:00	News in French
19:15	Udhala
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Night Court
21:10	The Story of Hollywood
22:00	News in English
22:20	Memories of Midnight
PRAYER TIMES	
14:14	Fair
05:45	(Sun) Dhah
12:42	Dhuhr
16:23	Asr
19:41	Maghrib
21:11	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellfish, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 625642	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 625256	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624528	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 623824, 654932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bulkin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Mia./Max. temp.	
Amman	18 / 31
Aqaba	25 / 38
Deserts	17 / 35
Jordan Valley	23 / 37

EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue	630341
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	895390
Public Security Department	630321
Police Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Repairs	661101
Abdullah Telephone Repair	773111
Jordan Television	774111
Radio Jordan	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	
Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	08-53200
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Ann.	644281/6
Abdullah Maternity, J. Ann.	642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	843845
Al-Musader Hospital	667279
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/77
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajirin	777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	775112/6
Army, J. Marka	891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/30
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)905660
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732
Al-Hikmah Modern Hospital	(09)909090
IRBID:	
Princess Basma Hospital	(02)275555
Great Catholic Hospital	(02)272775
Ibn Al-Nafies Hospital	(02)247100
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(09)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09)532005, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
09:20	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:10	Jeddah (RJ)
10:15	Larnaca (RJ)
10:30	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:35	London (RJ)
10:45	Frankfurt (RJ)
10:50	Istanbul (RJ)
11:00	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:15	Berlin, London (RJ)
11:30	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:40	Istanbul (RJ)
12:45	Colombo (RJ)
12:50	Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
13:00	Larnaca (RJ)
13:05	Sanaa (RJ)
13:10	Dhahran (RJ)
13:15	Riyadh (RJ)
13:20	New Delhi (RJ)
13:30	Aden (RJ)
13:40	Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
13:50	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
14:00	Rome (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
05:45	Beirut, Rome (AF)
07:05	Paris (AZ)
09:15	Beirut (ME)
10:30	Dubai (EM)
12:30	Sanaa (YV)
13:00	Jeddah (SV)
MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in file per kg.	
Apple	380/200
Apricots	440/400
Banana (Mulkammar)	680/680
Beans	620/620
Cabbage	230/230
Carrot	100/150
Cauliflower	200/220
Cherry (red)	180/180
Cucumber (large)	750/600
Cucumbers (small)	100/100
Eggplant	170/120
Grape	700/500
Lebanese	300/200
Marrow (large)	380/480
Marrow (small)	150/100
Mint	230/280
Onion (dry)	600/550
Orange	140/170
Peaches	340/220
Pepper (hot)	300/300
Pepper (sweet)	300/220
Potato	230/150
Tomato	130/80
Sweetcorn	240/180
Watermelon	140/60



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF RESEARCH: Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and Princess Sarvath Tuesday attend a celebration held at the American Centre of Oriental Research (ACOR) marking its 25th anniversary in the Kingdom. There, Prince Hassan opened an archaeological museum and an antiquities laboratory. ACOR's work is aimed at discovering and preserving Jordan's "rich and untapped" archaeological treasures (Photo by Boghos)

Omani envoy urges Arab states to bolster ties with Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Omani Ambassador to Jordan Mohammed Ben Sultan Ben Hamad Al-Bu Saeed Tuesday urged Gulf countries to follow his country's example and bolster their ties with Jordan in all fields.

Addressing a meeting organised by the Amman Rotary Club at the Philadelphia Hotel, the ambassador called on the Gulf States to regard Jordan as the closest Arab state to them.

Referring to the Gulf Crisis, the ambassador said Oman like Jordan had sought an Arab solution and sent delegations to various Arab states, but he said circumstances steered the events otherwise.

Noting that Oman has never cut its relations with Iraq, the ambassador said Muscat has close ties with all Arab states, particularly Jordan.

There are 270 Omani students studying at Jordanian universities and the Kingdom continually provides Oman with teachers, said the ambassador.

Paying tribute to His Majesty King Hussein's efforts towards solidarity among Arab states, the ambassador said that Oman will never forget Jordan's support for his country in all military, cultural and other fields and appreciates Jordan's ongoing efforts to close Arab ranks.

Arab agriculture agency says it seeks to provide best services

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD) seeks to provide the best possible services to the Arab countries, including technical training to personnel involved in agricultural fields, according to Yahya Bakkour, the AOAD director general.

Dr. Bakkour, who arrived here Tuesday from Syria in a three-day visit to Jordan, said AOAD considers Jordan one of the main centres for its activities and programmes and a member that has been providing the organisation with agricultural expertise.

The AOAD is keen on promoting its cooperation with the Kingdom and is determined to help Arab countries ensure food security, said Dr. Bakkour, who is currently on a tour of Arab states.

Speaking at a meeting with Agriculture Minister Marwan Kamal, he reviewed future AOAD plans, including training seminars, and AOAD's financial situation.

Dr. Bakkour said the organisation was willing to support all Jordanian agricultural development projects and would study a Jordanian plan to set up an agricultural training centre.

Dr. Kamal said Jordan was keen on paying its dues in full to the AOAD and supports the organisation in its endeavours to help Arab countries attain food security.

Dr. Bakkour said he would meet with other officials to discuss agricultural development in Jordan.



WORKING ON AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT: Jordan and Azerbaijan Tuesday open talks aimed at reaching air transport agreement enabling their respective national carriers to operate flights between Amman and Baku. Ahmad Jweiber (second from right) director general of the Civil Aviation Authority, leads the Jordanian side to the talks with a visiting Azerbaijan team. The talks are expected to culminate with the initialling of an agreement between the two sides (Petra photo)

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Regent congratulates Peru

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday sent a cable of good wishes to the president of Peru on his nation's independence day anniversary. He wished President Fujimori continued health and happiness and further progress for the Peruvian people.

Karak health officials destroy food

KARAK (Petra) — The Health Department in Karak governorate during the first half of 1993 destroyed large amounts of food supplies because they were found unfit for human consumption, according to department sources. The sources said the department has issued 546 warnings to stores violating public health regulations. In addition, they said, the department has fined 89 stores and ordered the closure of 209 others for violations. During the same period, the sources said, 502 workers in stores selling food supplies were examined by the department to ensure that they are free of communicable diseases. In Zarqa, the health department announced Tuesday that it has destroyed 75 tonnes of dates and 23 tonnes of olive oil.

Arab women's camp ends in Dibbin

JERASH (Petra) — A group of 310 young Jordanian and Arab women Tuesday concluded their week-long camp at Dibbin, near Ajloun. The participants, representing Palestine, Iraq, Oman and Jordan, received training in painting, plumbing, handicrafts, painting on glass, hairdressing, music and mechanics. They also visited several archaeological, touristic and military sites in Jordan, as well as the Jerash Festival of Arts and Culture. Director of the Scouts Department at the Ministry of Education Abba Abu Nuwar delivered an address at the closing ceremony of the camp and underlined the importance of cooperation and establishing social relationships between Arab women. The aim of holding such camps, she said, was to highlight the importance of national causes for participants and to train them on shouldering responsibilities. The camp is the seventh of its kind organised in Jordan.

Refugee delegates leave UNRWA meeting dissatisfied

By Lima Nabil
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A delegation representing Palestinian refugees living in Jordan Tuesday left a meeting with UNRWA director in Amman Dennis Brown to air their views.

Mr. Brown reviewed the ongoing efforts on the part of UNRWA's Commissioner General Ilter Turkmen to seek more contributions from donor nations to cover the estimated \$28.5 million deficit before the end of this year.

Saying that the efforts continue unabated, Mr. Brown added that the agency's endeavours so far have earned it only promises for funds not exceeding \$3 million. He said, would be spent on emergency operations in the Israeli-occupied Arab lands.

A member of the delegation later told the Jordan Times that in the two-hour meeting the group expressed concern over problems facing the education sector as a result of possible reduction of services in the wake of the agency's latest announcement that it would not be able to fill all the vacancies for teachers in the coming year.

He said UNRWA recently decided to cut to 30 the 120 planned vacancies for teachers; a measure he maintained, would mean congested classes of at least 60 students each.

He said the delegation rejected such a prospect and discussed with Mr. Brown the question of UNRWA's recent decision to reduce some food supplies restricting them to "extremely severe cases."

The delegate said Mr. Brown told the group that UNRWA would pursue its efforts with the donor nations to get more funds and explained the agency's financial situation.

He said the group arrived at no satisfactory result from the meeting with Mr. Brown.

He said they called on Mr. Brown to convey the refugees' views and preempt and adverse move on the part of the agency.

UNRWA, which offers services to nearly \$1.1 million registered refugees in Jordan, has an annual budget of \$285 million for its fields of operations in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Of this budget, UNRWA has allocated \$61.2 million for its operations in Jordan, mainly financing the education sector which employs 5,000 teachers and educates 150,000 students.

Refugee delegates leave UNRWA meeting dissatisfied

By Lima Nabil
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations appreciates Jordan's continued efforts to reach a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and its contribution to the U.N. peacekeeping forces around the world, President of the U.N. General Assembly Stoyan Ganey said here Tuesday.

No one can overlook Jordan's role in the current peace talks and its drive to maintain world peace by sending troops to the former Yugoslavia, Somalia and South East Asia, said Mr. Ganey at meetings with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan.

Mr. Ganey told the Jordan Times that a suitable solution should be found to compensate countries affected by the U.N. embargo on Iraq, namely Jordan.

He added that the U.N. General Assembly is expected to discuss the issue in its meeting in September, noting that Article 50 of the U.N. Charter constitute a legal solution to Jordan's economic situation.

Mr. Ganey also underlined the importance of a document presented, in the 1980s, by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, to the U.N. on human rights. He said he will seek, as president of the General Assembly, to adopt it as an official document.

Outlining the world organisation's current drive to modernise and improve its performance, Mr. Ganey said the U.N. aims at promoting its activities in the humanitarian, economic and social arenas, as well as in the political sphere.

Commenting on current criticism levelled at the United Nations for adopting double standards in dealing with world issues such as Palestine, Iraq and Bosnia, Mr. Ganey had earlier said he was convinced that the world

U.N. official voices appreciation for Jordan's peace efforts, troops



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Jordan's permanent representative to the U.N., Adnan Abu Odeh, Tuesday meet with

General Assembly and the U.N. agencies, adding that all countries regard the organisation as representing the interests of all nations.

In reviewing world developments with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan at a separate meeting attended by Jordan's U.N. Permanent Representative Adnan Abu Odeh, Mr. Ganey, a Bulgarian, listened to a review of Jordan's strong relationship and cooperation with the U.N. and its different agencies.

He also discussed the outcome of the 10th round of Arab-Israeli peace talks and current contacts over the peace process, as well as Israel's repeated violations and aggressions on Arab lands.

Mr. Ganey, who is to address the World Affairs Council Wednesday, also met Tuesday with Minister of Industry and Trade Bassam Al Saket to review Jordan's economic restructuring programmes and international aid to the Kingdom.

Noting that Jordan was adhering to the U.N.-imposed sanctions on Iraq, Mr. Saket drew attention to the continued harassment of Aqaba-bound vessels which, he said, is causing \$30 million in material losses to the country annually.

Mr. Saket reiterated Jordan's call on the U.N. to re-examine the present restrictions imposed on international shipping in the Red Sea.

The trade minister outlined Jordan's economic interests and its drive to pursue development through the help of the specialised U.N. agencies.

Upon arriving here, Mr. Ganey said he would discuss with Jordanian officials topics on the agenda of the coming U.N. General Assembly session.

Central bank warns on credit limits

By Saleman Al Khalidi
Reuter

AMMAN — Jordan's Central Bank, reviving IMF-directed rules, has told banks not to exceed their credit limits and imposed penalties for offenders, bankers and financial sources said Tuesday.

The bank warned violators they had to enforce instructions issued in May limiting credit ceilings to 10 times a bank's capital or reserves, or 90 per cent of its total deposits.

The latest move was prompted because credit granted up to June 30 was more than JD 100 million in excess of the half-yearly target of JD 200 million.

This was set out under an International Monetary Fund (IMF)-agreed economic reform programme.

The plan sets JD 400 million of loan credit given by banks for 1993 to help stem inflationary pressures and redirect economic effort towards productive sectors.

The step followed routine consultations between Jordan and the IMF in early July. The fund has praised Jordan's achievements.

Bankers said some banks, which had exceeded credit limits, would be directly affected by the move, especially those with small capital and deposits.

But the impact of the move, they say, will go much further, because it will redirect credit from Jordan's active stock exchange and the booming real estate.

The new instructions, unlike earlier ones prodding banks to remain within IMF limits, has enforcement clauses, including one which forces violating banks to place in the central bank a reserve without interest equivalent to the offence.

Violating banks which do not have such funds would have to pay 3.5 per cent interest on an equivalent sum in an obligatory reserve deposited in the central bank, bankers added.

Many officials complain in private of overheating in the financial market and real estate, prompted primarily by limited investment outlets to match excess liquidity, most of which came with more than 300,000 Jordanians forced to flee Kuwait because of the 1990 Gulf crisis.

They say the new move would further help meet the IMF's monetary objectives by moving banking credit more towards productive investment to boost the export-oriented industry.

"It will make banks even more choosy because of the ceiling to grant credit to its clients based on their profitability and security of loans," said senior banker Hani Qaish.

Banks are enjoying record liquidity levels of around JD 4.76 billion of deposits brought by massive capital inflows from Gulf war returns.

Total accumulative commercial credit stood at JD 2.45 billion last April, most of which went to the private sector, central bank figures show.

Mrs. Cetin visits QAF, tours NHF



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday receives in her office Inci Cetin, wife of the visiting Turkish foreign minister (Petra photo)

After watching a slide presentation on the NHF work in family and community development, women, children culture and heritage and education, Mrs. Cetin toured the Jordan Design and Trade Centre.

This NHF facility extends technical, training and marketing assistance to Jordanian crafts people to enhance the standards of craft production, and ensure national and international marketing outlets for Jordanian crafts.

Mrs. Cetin was accompanied on her NHF visit by wives of the Jordanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Jordanian ambassador in Turkey, and of the Turkish ambassador in Jordan.

PROMOTING JORDAN IN JAPAN: In exploring new openings to strengthen the bonds of friendship between Japan and Jordan and bolster better understanding of the Kingdom, its culture and heritage, Kimiko Okada, wife of the former Japanese ambassador to Jordan, Fumiya Okada, has engaged the help of wives of former Japanese ambassadors to Jordan in Tokyo. These women are highlighting their impressions about Jordan in an effort to inform other Japanese citizens about the Kingdom and its attractions. Mrs. Okada is also seeking to expand the work of the Japan-Jordan Friendship Association, as a counterpart to the Jordan-Japan Friendship Association, which is sponsored by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, as the honorary president, and managed by Sharif Jamil Ibn Nasser. In a recent letter to Ali Dajani, the honorary secretary of the Jordan-Japan Friendship Association in Amman, Mrs. Okada reported on her efforts in organising lectures, panel discussions and meetings with Japanese associations, institutes and individuals. She said participants show much interest in the Middle East struggle and also in the Gulf war and the "agony suffered by Jordan as a result of the influx of about one million people who sought temporary refuge in the country, in addition to the question of Jordanian returnees from the Gulf states. Mrs. Okada expressed hope that the Crown Prince of Jordan and the Crown Prince of Japan will strike a mutual friendship that, she said, will undoubtedly strengthen Jordanian-Japanese relations.

The smothering 'curtain' that affects everyone

Following is the second, and last, part of an article written by Colin Edwards for the Link, a magazine published by Americans for Middle East Understanding, about his experience with Zionist censorship in the field of news reporting and documentary production.

Censorship at KALW-FM San Francisco

In March 1990 a producer at KALW-FM, a public radio station owned by the San Francisco Unified School District, invited me to do a weekly commentary, of an "Op-Ed" nature, on world affairs. After decades of just straight reporting, producing documentaries and recording interviews in many countries, I thought it was time that I shared with the public some conclusions I had arrived at, as well as some historical background on situations abroad that were important, especially information that had been sadly lacking in the mass media, as I had observed it. I would bring out facts that correspondents would tell you if you sat down personally with them but had not been able to say on the air or get into print.

These commentaries went on the air on March 28, 1990. I was allowed ten minutes and they were broadcast at 9:35 a.m. each Wednesday. Among the governments I dealt with very critically in the next two years and three months were, in addition to Israel: Lebanon, Cambodia, Thailand, South Africa, Malaysia, Indonesia, Taiwan, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Vietnam, Korea, Turkey, Yugoslavia, Germany, Burma, Kuwait, England, Iraq, the United States, and my own land of origin, Wales.

Beginning with the Aug. 22, 1990 commentary, my weekly airtime was cut to between five and six minutes.

My reports and comments on Israeli government actions brought frequent complaints from local Zionist organisations and individuals. Station Manager Daniel Del Solar told me of these every time I encountered him at the station. In a letter responding to a pro-Israeli listener who had complained of some things he claimed I had said (but had not) in my "vile" commentaries, Del Solar identified a senior member of his staff as "a strong supporter of Edwards." I considered this a betrayal by him of a subordinate. Also, what if that listener was a member of the murderous Jewish Defence League or had friends in it? They might have gone after that named staff member. I am the only one who should be responsible for my remarks and I accept the risks associated with them. No one else should be victimised on account of me.

One day, when I encountered Del Solar at the station, he said: "Aren't you anti-Semitic?" On another occasion, when I suggested to invite William M. Mandel, author of "Soviet but not Russian," about non-Russian republics and minorities in the old Soviet Union, and six other books on the USSR, to do some commentaries on the break up of that empire, Del Solar replied: "No. I don't think so. He was a member of the communist party, as you were."

The fact is that Mandel quit the Communist Party in 1956, over the Soviet invasion of Hungary and the Russians' brutal suppression of the Hungarian revolution, and he has a considerable reputation as a scholar. As for myself, I never was a member of the communist party. In fact, ever since I became politically aware in my secondary school days I have regarded the totalitarian communist system of single party rule, denial of freedom of speech, secret police methods and labour camps for political dissidents as repugnant.

I saw Del Solar's sly insinuations as attempts to provoke me into "walking out" of the station in high dudgeon and giving up my programme slot but I remembered what some senior members of his staff had told me once:

"Just ignore him. We do." After all, my real relationship there was with my listeners, dozens of whom had written letters praising my programmes and many more who had telephoned the station expressing their strong support for them. I did not want to let them down just because of the idiotic remarks of Del Solar.

Del Solar's animosity took on a more insulting tone at one stage. Shortly after I started doing my commentaries for KALW, the station staff had told me that the tape I was using to record them in the small studio I have in my home was not up to their standard and that I must use some of their tape. Since I was not being paid for my commentaries, nor for my expenses in delivering them to the station in San Francisco from my home across the Bay, they felt that the station should provide the tape, anyway.

When recording my commentaries, I often did some last minute editing, which means that there were splices in them. The station staff made it very clear that they did not reuse tape with splices in it. I was glad to hold on to the tapes because I had discovered that KALW did not maintain the old radio custom of making and keeping "air-checks" (i.e. recordings) of its broadcasts. Knowing that I might be challenged on what I was saying in my commentaries, I wanted a record — on tape — of them all.

One day I received a phone call from Del Solar accusing me of taking station property because I had used station tape and retained the recordings of my commentaries. I was outraged at this but he continued to put that construction on the arrangement I had with his staff. So, from then on I purchased tape out of my own pocket to do my commentaries.

On June 30, 1985, I had read in that day's San Francisco Examiner, the Hearst flagship newspaper, a report on an interview with a member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors (City Council), Quentin Kopp, titled "Kopp's Israel Diary." In it, Kopp described the mouth he had just completed as a "volunteer for Israel," unpacking military supplies at a warehouse on an Israeli jet fighter base in the Negev. The article said: "It's difficult to see how the Israeli army got their money's worth out of San Francisco Supervisor Quentin Kopp.... In the volunteer programme, interested persons pay \$500 for plane fare. In exchange, Israel gives them boots, fatigue uniforms, three meals a day and a warm place to sleep. They also get huck-private's jobs on Israeli military bases for thirty days."

Illustrating the interview was a photo of Kopp and two friends, all in Israeli uniform, at the air base near the town of Arad. Describing what Kopp had told him of one incident there, the reporter wrote: "Kopp and his friends made the mistake of wearing their uniforms on a visit to the Red Sea resort of Taba Beach, and they got roasted by Israeli soldiers in civvies. That's because both Israel and Egypt claim Taba Beach and, in the Camp David Accords, Israel promised not to station uniformed troops there."

In the July 3, 1985 issue of the San Francisco Chronicle, that city's principal morning paper, there were two articles referring to Supervisor Kopp and the programme that took him and other foreigners, Jews and non-Jews, to Israel to don Israeli military uniforms. One of the articles was titled "A Stint in the Israeli Reserves: Rewards of Roughing it in Reserves." It noted that "since 1982 and the start of the Lebanon war, more than 3,000 Jews, most

of them American but including English and South Africa, have paid their way to Israel to ease the shortage in the Israeli army."

"Easing the shortage in a military force" well describes the function of a military reserve. The other article, illustrated by two more snapshots of Kopp in Israeli uniform, consisted of excerpts from Kopp's diary for the 30 days he spent in the Israeli military in 1985. They included the following verbatim statements: "May 22: ...In the afternoon I help Limor (another volunteer) move a bomb to the flight repair shop... May 22: about 9:30 a.m. there's a flamboyant ceremony to celebrate the promotion of Ori, Miri and a third soldier (Dorit) to corporal... June 16: ...We turn in our uniforms."

The day after those articles appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle, I happened to hear Kopp describing his service on the Israeli air bases on a radio talk show, the Ron Owens programme, on the ABC radio outlet in San Francisco, KGO. Kopp recommended a stint in the "Volunteers for Israel" programme to Owens and his listeners, explaining that anybody between 18 and 65, or 62, years of age, including women, were welcome to join. He repeatedly gave an address and a telephone number through which interested persons could get information and application forms. "If you are stuck and can't get through (on the phone) or something," he said, "call my office and I'll be happy to give you the information.... I've already had somebody write me from Walnut Creek who isn't Jewish, an ex-Marine Corps pilot. As a matter of fact, he flew Skyhawks, he said, and he wants to get into the programme. And so I sent him the address and the telephone number."

At least a couple of callers on the programme described how they had been going over to Israel as "volunteers for Israel" year after year, one to serve as a tank driver.

I recalled all this when I was preparing my Sept. 11, 1991 KALW commentary, in which I was remarking on Zionist influence in American politics and said that I had heard of public officials in the U.S. serving in "the Israeli armed forces reserves." And gave Quentin Kopp, by now a California State Senator, as a local example.

That term "reserves" had been used twice by the San Francisco Chronicle in its description of the "Volunteers for Israel" programme and I think the words "armed forces reserves" accurately describes the nature of the "Volunteers for Israel" programme, even though "armed forces volunteer reserves" would have been more precise. They all constitute forms of "military reserves."

From a friend who reads the Northern California Jewish Bulletin regularly I heard that its Nov. 22, 1991, issue had an item reading: "California State Senator Quentin Kopp (Independent, San Francisco) retracted his threat to file a libel suit against S.F. radio station KALW this week after the station promised to air an apology for broadcasting a statement that Kopp had been in the Israeli military. Colin Edwards, an occasional guest commentator on the station, told a radio audience, Sept. 11, that Kopp had served in the Israeli army and advocated other Americans join the Israeli reserves. Actually, Kopp had lent his services to Volunteers for Israel, an American organisation that places Americans — who pay their own way — in non-paid Israeli army support positions for several weeks at a time."

I had not received from KALW's manager, Daniel Del Solar, any indication that it had been threatened with a lawsuit by Senator Kopp because of anything I had said on the air, or that

it intended to apologise to him. This was an extreme discourtesy to me but when I brought this up with Del Solar he was absolutely unapologetic.

I supplied him with copies of the 1985 issues of the San Francisco Chronicle and Examiner containing the articles quoting Kopp on his service at the Israeli air force base and the photographs of him in Israeli uniform, as well as verbatim transcriptions of the relevant Kopp remarks on the Ron Owens talk show. Yet, Del Solar said he planned to go ahead with his broadcast apology to Kopp.

On Nov. 27, 1991, Del Solar went on the air on KALW and apologised to Kopp for my allegedly "erroneous statements" in my Sept. 11 commentary.

Early in 1992, Del Solar told me he was giving the Israeli Consulate General a chance to respond to remarks made about his government's action by myself and another KALW commentator, Sasha Putran (who was also taken off the air soon after me). It was to be a lengthy interview conducted by Del Solar. In his introduction to the interview, Del Solar declared: "In the June, 1967 war, Israel was not considered the aggressor. It was under attack by Egypt, Syria and Jordan

"Judging by the near complete blacking out by most of the newspapers and other media in this country and abroad of this important story of ADL spying and the involvement of many law-enforcement officers nationwide, the heavy weight of the 'Zion Curtain' is still being felt, almost smothering the public's right to know what it needs to know about matters affecting everyone."

and, when it fought back, it occupied the land." (Del Solar apparently didn't know that even Israeli generals and politicians have discarded this myth).

One June 22, 1992, a KALW staff member telephoned me to say that I was being taken off the air on the orders of Daniel Del Solar. I called Del Solar and he said it was because he needed my six minute commentary spot for programming of a more educational nature. I remarked: "Oh, come on, your decision was political." "Everything is political," he responded.

My last commentary was broadcast on July 1, 1992. At its end I told the listeners: "This is the last of my regular commentaries on KALW. It was not my decision to stop. This station has received many objections to my remarks from the Israeli Consulate General and Zionist organisations and individuals."

When listeners telephoned Del Solar to object to my commentaries being taken off the air, Del Solar told them that my statement was a lie. That he was not responding to any outside pressure.

An investigative reporter for the San Francisco Weekly, the only Bay area paper to say anything about my termination, wrote in its July 29, 1992 issue: "Outspoken radio commentator Colin Edwards has been fired from KALW-FM after a months-long campaign by the Jewish Anti-Defamation League and the threat of a lawsuit by state Senator Quentin Kopp.... The Kopp incident spurred the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) into action. Assistant Director Nancy Diner said last week, 'We started transcribing (Edwards') shows to

check for accuracy. We wrote many protest letters to the station.' Diner said that, although it was not the ADL's intention to force Edwards off the air, one member of the group recently compiled a list of Edwards' alleged inaccuracies and took them to station manager Daniel Del Solar in a personal effort to get Edwards fired."

"Del Solar denied that the campaign against Edwards figured in his decision to end Edwards' four-year-old programme. 'He was being boring,' Del Solar said. But producer Alan Farley confirmed that outside pressure provoked the firing. 'Edwards' commentaries have drawn a lot of flack from the Israeli consulate and elsewhere in the Jewish community,' he said. 'Our station manager finally got tired of dealing with it.'

"Loyal listeners, upset at the decision, jammed the station switchboard with irate calls for half an hour after Edwards announced that the July 1 programme was his last, Farley said."

Del Solar responded to the article in a letter to the editor of the San Francisco Weekly, stating: "Mr. Edwards' journalistic integrity was completely compromised in my mind by the lie he stated on the air during his six-minute KALW commentary. Edwards said, or inferred strongly enough for listeners to consider as fact, that I had been forced by the Israeli Consulate and other 'Zionist forces' to remove Edwards from the air."

Nancy Diner of the ADL wrote to the San Francisco Weekly disclaiming "credit for something with which we had little to do. For our part, we simply asked KALW's management for an equal opportunity to be heard. No attempt at censorship. No attempt to get Edwards fired. Kudos to KALW for recognising its editorial responsibility."

He letter brought a rejoinder from a member of KALW's advisory board, Herbert G. Susmann, who wrote, in a letter to the editor of the San Francisco Weekly: "I was present at a KALW board meeting on April 30 when the then-manager (Daniel Del Solar) read a letter from B'nai B'rith asking for the removal of Mr. Edwards.... In fact, in a July 31 memo to a member of the school administration, the station manager stated that 'important organisations in the Jewish community communicated their desire to have Mr. Edwards removed from KALW.'"

The final paragraph of a July 15, 1992 San Francisco Weekly article on my being taken off the air by Del Solar reads: "The San Francisco school district runs the station, and school board member Tom Ammann called for an investigation into Edwards' firing. 'I am concerned about censorship,' he said. 'It's not up to Del Solar to decide these things. The board sets policy. We don't want to look as though we cave in to pressure, although we always do.'"

Knowing of the Board of Education's pressing financial problems I delayed getting in touch with it until March 22, when I wrote to its president, Mr. Ammann, demanding a public apology for Del Solar's public attacks on my journalistic standards and personal integrity. The Schools Superintendent wrote to me a few days later, saying that I would receive a response within ten days but, despite a further enquiry (by phone) and another promise of an early response, to this date of writing (May 25, 1993) I have heard nothing further from the board regarding my demand for an apology, nor has there been any news of an investigation into Del Solar's actions.

According to Friedman, the convicted Mossad spy Jonathan Pollard "wrote to friends that a prominent ADL leader was deeply involved in the Israeli spy operation" (in which) "Pollard... while assigned to the Navy's Anti-Terrorist Alert Centre, where he had access to the most closely guarded U.S. secrets, stole thousands of pages of classified documents for Israel, which, according to federal prosecutors, 'could fill a room the size of a large closet... ten feet by six feet by six feet.'"

Robert Friedman added: "Pollard's (Mossad) handler was Avi Sella, an Israeli Air Force Colonel whose wife worked for the New York ADL as a lawyer.... In 1987, the ADL came under FBI scrutiny in the wake of the Pollard spy scandal."

The ADL spy operation. Meanwhile, since Dec. 10, 1992, a scandal involving the anti-Defamation League has been developing. On the date, FBI agents and investigators for the San Francisco District Attorney's Office raided the San Francisco and Los Angeles offices of the ADL, Roy Bullock, and recently retired San Francisco Police

intelligence officer, Tom Gerard. Gerard had been fishing from police files confidential information on a wide range of political groups and activists, mostly on the left and among black and other ethnic minorities, and feeding them to Bullock who also was a paid informant for the South African intelligence service.

The police say that some of these illegally acquired files found their way into the ADL offices. An ADL spokeswoman, Barbara Wahl, has revealed that the ADL passes information on to the government of Israel, a fact that has been suspected for many years. An article by the Jewish investigative journalist Robert I. Friedman in the Village Voice of May 11, 1993, quoted from a July 7, 1961 letter from the ADL's National Director (1946-1983) Ben Epstein to Saul Joffe, Executive Secretary of B'nai B'rith (the parent organisation to the ADL), requesting \$25,000 for his ADL spies. Epstein explained in the letter: "Our information, in addition to being essential for our own operations, has been of great value to both the United States State Department and the Israeli government. All data have been made available to both countries with full knowledge to each that we were the source."

Epstein's Associate National Director and, for forty-six years (1940-1986), the general counsel for the ADL, Arnold Forster, wrote in his autobiography, "Square One," that, from the time he took up his post in the ADL and until he retired, he operated a network of undercover agents who were infiltrated into many organisations disliked by the ADL and used methods that can surely be considered burglary. He describes how his "investigators" would gain the confidence of the targets of their spying and then, in their absence and without their knowledge, open file cabinets of confidential documents in their homes or offices and photograph the contents. At times when their targets returned to the premises while Forster's spies were at work, one ADL spy hid in a coal bin; another escaped with an accomplice over a rooftop.

Forster even admitted in the book that he acted as "a source" for the Israeli intelligence and terrorism agency, Mossad. Robert I. Friedman, the New York Village Voice reporter, won the 1989 Smoliar Award for Excellence in North American Jewish Journalism, which is presented by the Council of Jewish Federations. In his book "The False Prophet" (Lawrence Hill Books, 1990), about the leader of the Jewish Defence League, Meir Kahane, Friedman charged that a top official in the Brooklyn office of the ADL for many years, Bernard Deutsch, was a key member of a covert group that oversaw some of the Jewish Defence League's terrorist actions in the U.S. Other members of the group included Yitzhak Shamir (1940's Stern Gang terrorist, Mossad's Chief of Operations until 1965 and, later, Prime Minister of Israel), and also three top Mossad officers, several Israeli army officers (who gave weapons training in Israel to American Jewish youths in the JDL), several wealthy American and Israeli businessmen, and former Irgun terrorist and current Knesset Member Guala Cohen. The group's operations in support of the ADL were financed from the profits of Deutsch's investment business before he was indicted and convicted of stock fraud and tax evasion in 1975.

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friend I wrote a letter to the editor of the Daily Journal giving broadcast dates and publication dates of reports I had done on Nazi atrocities against Jews and the reemergence of Nazis in the West German military, police and judicial establishments, of my interviews with Dr. Israel Shabak and other Israelis, of my work with Moshe Menuhin on his autobiography, and of other works of mine that illustrate that my criticism has not been of Jews, as Jews, but of Zionist ideology and Israel's policies and actions.

On May 5, 1993, The San Francisco Daily Journal published a truncated version of the two pages the editor had said he would print in the Letters to the Editor section. While it kept in full a section where I described critical commentaries I had done on Arab regimes, it cut out completely my mentions of interviews I had done with leaders of the ANC, ZANU and SWAPO African liberation movements (in the early 1970's) who talked of Israel's close ties with Apartheid South Africa, interviews with Israeli dissidents who described oppression of Palestinians, interviews with Ashraf (PLO "Young Lions") youngsters who talked of their respect for Jews like Israel Shabak and Moshe Menuhin, my report from Syria on the situation of the Jewish community there that, like similar reports by Mike Wallace and a National Geographic reporter, contradicted Zionist propaganda on the subject, my commentaries on Zionist collaboration with the Nazis, Italian fascists and Japanese militarists before and during World War II, and on the Israeli attack on the U.S.S. Liberty, and the strange circumstances surrounding the death of Norman Wallen, who was planning to make a film on that incident that would have featured prominently the heroism of two Jewish members of the Liberty's crew.

As for former Police Inspector Tom Gerard, he returned from his hideaway in the Philippines on May 6 and was immediately arrested on eleven hastily-drawn felony charges. The number of charges was reduced the following day, as was the bail (from \$250,000 to \$200,000). He claims he left the Philippines because he feared the CIA would try to have him killed there after he had threatened to blow the whistle on CIA involvement with death squads in Central America, where he served as a CIA agent from 1980 to 1984, if he was indicted in the ADL spying case.

On May 10, in a development that surprised everyone with knowledge of the tremendous political influence wielded by Zionists in San Francisco, as elsewhere in the country, "a source close to the criminal probe" told the San Francisco Examiner that "top officials of the Anti-Defamation League are the ultimate targets of the San Francisco District Attorney's domestic spying investigation.... Gerard and Bullock are only 'cogs', the source said."

It seems that at last a small dedicated group of public servants are willing to challenge the might of Zionist influence over the political, law-enforcement and judicial establishments in this country in order to protect the constitutional rights of ordinary citizens and residents.

However, in contrast, judging by the near complete blacking out by most of the newspapers and other media in this country and abroad of this important story of ADL spying and the involvement of many law-enforcement officers nationwide, the heavy weight of the "Zion Curtain" is still being felt, almost smothering the public's right to know what it needs to know about matters affecting everyone.

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Disaster-stopper grounded for lack of interest

By Jack Taylor
Agence France Presse

SYDNEY — Australian scientists who invented a device which can warn airline pilots of potential disaster fear they may be forced overseas to find a company willing to complete its commercial development.

The device, which warns of conditions responsible for a large number of air crashes and near misses, also has an export potential for whichever country develops it of \$270 million, chief designer Fred Prata said Monday. Oxford-educated, Prata said due to the economic downturn here, the one company which wanted to develop the device had pulled out and no other had been found willing to invest the needed \$6.75 million in developing the Airborne Hazard Detection System (AHDS).

The device, developed in the laboratories of the Australian government's Commonwealth

Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), gives early warning of volcanic ash clouds, a constant hazard to aircraft flying over parts of Asia, North America and elsewhere.

The U.S. scientific journal Nature reported last week that volcanic ash was known to have caused damage to at least 60 airliners and the risks were increasing.

One of the jets was a KLM 747 which made a remarkable safe landing after a cloud of ash stopped all four engines over Mount Redoubt in Alaska on a flight from Amsterdam to Anchorage in December, 1989.

The four engines had to be replaced at a cost of \$80 million. The multi-functional AHDS, which Mr. Prata believes will be marketed for around \$135,000 also warned of two other hazards feared by pilots: clear-air turbulence and low-level windshear, which have caused many crashes. The 10 kilogramme device,

which works by identifying the infra-red signature of the hazard ahead, has returned to Australia after successful testing aboard a Cessna light plane over the Sakurajima volcano in Japan.

Japanese airlines are said to be very interested in its development as Japan is particularly susceptible to volcanic ash clouds. Mr. Prata said Qantas, KLM and British Airways are also interested, but do not see the airline industry as having a development role for this sort of project.

Mr. Prata, principal research scientist at the CSIRO Division of Atmosphere Research, told AFP he had made two trips to Seattle to see Boeing engineers who were also keen to encourage development of the device, but thought somebody else should develop it.

He said volcanic ash is a particular hazard to aircraft flying the North Pacific routes to North America from countries like Japan, China, Hong Kong and

the Philippines. "We know of 17 incidents around Mount Pinatubo from the beginning of its last eruption on June 12, 1991," said Mr. Prata, who has a doctorate in atmospheric physics.

"I understand a U.S. geological survey says 60 aircraft are known to have been damaged by ash. Our system would give five to 10 minutes warning of ash and that's plenty time for avoiding action."

"Boeing was very willing to encourage its development and in fact there are a number of companies in the United States that would be willing to develop it. Because it has been developed in Australia we want to see an Australian company manufacture it and I'm very disappointed that we haven't been able to find one so far willing to take the opportunity that is offered. 'We intend to keep looking for a little longer yet, but we may still be forced to go overseas.'"

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Experts: Billion jobs needed to cope with growing labour force

UNDATED (AFP) — At least a billion jobs must be created worldwide in the next 10 years, only to prevent the gap between the poor and rich from widening, demographic experts have agreed in a series of published reports.

By 2025, the earth's population will have grown to 8.5 billion, against 5.5 billion today, and those of working age will have gone up to 3.7 billion from 2.4 million.

Before the year 2000, Mexico's workforce will have reached 18 million people, Bangladesh 20 million and Kenya 7.3 million.

Developing countries, where most of the population growth is taking place, will need to create 38 million jobs a year, only to keep abreast of people joining

the job market, not taking into account the existing 40 per cent unemployed or under-employed.

In developing countries, between 50 and 60 per cent are employed in the unregulated sector (street jobs, subsistence jobs and undeclared work in the black economy), without a decent income, according to a report by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). It estimated that 40 per cent of the populations of Latin America and the Caribbean live below the poverty line.

In Europe and North America, the population of working age is going up very little because of low birth rates. But unemployment has become critical. The 24 countries belonging to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation

and Development are predicting 36 million unemployed in 1994. In the former East Bloc, the disappearance of the state sector is also causing mass unemployment, the ILO report said.

One of the many consequences will be a rising tide of immigrants, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) predicts. The world already has 100 million immigrants, 30 million of them legal or illegal workers.

To generate employment, some experts, UNFPA among them, have stopped putting the accent on world growth. The UNFPA believes that a "period of growth without employment" has already begun and that a solution is to reduce working hours, which it believes could create 1.3 million jobs in the

United States alone.

For developing countries, UNFPA believes that "lasting development" means not concentrating only on the capital and on production, "but on people," with training programmes, agricultural reforms and support for small businesses and local employment.

The ILO says there is a need for "an integrated approach to questions of population, human resources, employment and development." It believed the informal sector in the cities and the countryside could be made viable with training, loans, the creation of infrastructures and essential services in the areas of health, nutrition and hygiene geared towards promoting employment.

IBM posts \$8b loss, says 50,000 employees leaving

NEW YORK (AP) — IBM reported Tuesday it suffered an \$8 billion second-quarter loss, including a huge charge for corporate restructuring that includes the early retirement of 50,000 employees, twice the company's earlier projection.

International Business Machines (IBM) Corp. also said it expected another 35,000 employees to leave by the end of 1994.

The computer manufacturer reported revenue of \$15.5 billion, a 15 per cent drop from a year ago that reflects the company's continuing struggle with the changing market for mainframe computers, for years its most lucrative product. However, IBM said sales of mainframes rose compared to the first three months of the year.

IBM earned \$734 million on

revenue of \$16.2 billion in the second quarter of last year.

IBM's workforce, which peaked at 406,000 at the end of 1985, was just over 300,000 at the start of 1992. The company said Tuesday it expected to have a workforce of 255,000 by the end of this year and 225,000 at end of 1994.

It said the \$8.5 billion pretax restructuring charge should produce annual savings of \$4 billion. About \$6 billion represents costs of paying employees to leave the company. The rest covers expenses of closing offices and factories.

IBM Chairman Louis Gerstner Jr. said the company does not anticipate further charges and cost-cutting moves unless "our current view of future industry revenue and demand proves incorrect."

Jaguar output rises 46% in first half of '93

LONDON (AFP) — British carmaker Jaguar Group has said its output rose by 46 per cent in the first half of 1993 compared with the same period in 1992, thanks to an increase in demand from the United States and Germany.

Jaguar, owned by Ford Group, produced 14,951 cars between January and the end of June, 4,244 more than in the first half of 1992, which was a particularly difficult period for the luxury car-maker.

Sales rose by almost 20 per cent in the United States, up to 5,745, and increased from 910 to 1,091 in Germany, where the market for top of the range cars remains particularly depressed, a spokesman said.

Jaguar said at the start of the

year that it wanted to increase production by 25 per cent from the 1992 level to 28,000 cars.

By the year 2000, the company wants to produce 100,000 cars per year, compared to its previous record production of 49,000 cars produced in 1988, the spokesman said.

At the end of 1992, Jaguar launched a £700 million investment plan, spread over five years, aimed at developing a new saloon car to replace the XJ6 series in 1994, a new sports model to replace the XJS, in 1996 and a new small car in 1998.

The car group has made a loss ever since its purchase by Ford in 1989, cutting its staff from 12,000 to 7,000 in the meantime.

Iran opens \$2.2b petrochemical plant

NICOSIA (R) — Iran Monday inaugurated the first phase of a \$2.2 billion petrochemical complex in the central city of Arak. Iran's IRNA news agency said.

Ahmad Rahnghar, deputy oil minister and head of the national Petrochemical Company, said the plant could produce 550,000 tonnes of petrochemicals worth \$300 million a year, IRNA reported.

From the end of September it will market its products, including polyethylene, acetic acid and raw materials used in pharmaceuticals and textiles, synthetic fibres, anti-freeze, paints and adhesives.

The complex, built by 27 foreign and 350 Iranian contractors, will be fed from oil refineries in Arak, 240 kilometres southwest of Tehran, and Isfahan.

The plant, Iran's 10th petrochemical complex, cost \$1.94 billion in foreign exchange plus 440 billion riyals (\$280 million), IRNA quoted Mr. Rahnghar as saying.

Mr. Rahnghar said in April that his company produced 5.5 million tonnes of petrochemicals in the year to March 20, up from 4.1 million in the previous year.

Sears earnings triple

CHICAGO (AP) — Sears, Roebuck and Co. has reported its second-quarter profit more than tripled to \$1.01 billion on improvement in its retail business as well as the sale of stock in its Allstate insurance subsidiary.

Sears earnings, which amounted to \$2.63 per share in the three months ended June 30, compared with \$325.5 million, or 85 cents per share, for the same period last year.

Revenues declined 3.7 per cent to \$12.2 billion from \$12.6 billion.

A large chunk of the second-quarter earnings came from Sears' \$635.1 million gain from the initial public offering of Allstate stock.

Excluding extraordinary items, earnings rose 69 per cent to \$458.5 million and revenues rose 5.6 per cent to \$12.2 billion, Sears said.

The company's performance reflected higher retailing profits attributed to the company's restructuring of the Sears merchandise group. Sears slashed its costs this year by killing its 97-year-old, money-losing catalog and closing 113 of its 860 stores.

Castro admits losing battle against dollar and tipping

HAVANA (AFP) — Cuban President Fidel Castro said Monday that his government had lost the fight against the widespread use of the dollar and would legalise it.

In a televised speech to mark the 40th anniversary of the attack on the Mocoa barracks, the first battle of the revolution, President Castro said that the government planned to make it legal for Cubans to hold dollars now circulating illegally, but did not say when the law would be changed.

The Cuban leader said that despite the plans to change the law to legalise dollars, he had no "miracles" to announce that would ease Cuba's dire economic straits.

"People speak of economic packages, of magic formulas, but there is no package of measures, there is nothing and there can be no miraculous formulas," he told a crowd of about 3,000 people at a theatre in Santiago de Cuba on the eastern end of the island.

In his nearly two-hour-long speech President Castro referred to "dollars" several times, but then would correct himself and

say, "freely convertible currency."

Because of Cuba's economic crisis, the anniversary to mark the July 26, 1953 attack, a three-day holiday here, was scaled back. The usual parade and rally with tens of thousands of people were cancelled because of shortages of fuel and spare parts for public transportation.

President Castro said the government would also legalise tipping, saying it was "a universal custom that we have struggled against for a long time but also a reality which, in the end, has imposed itself."

In recent months, employees of restaurants on the Varadero, Cuba's best known beach, have been allowed to keep part of the tips they received from foreign tourists and use the dollars to shop in a special store.

President Castro said that he was also considering making it easier for Cubans living abroad to return home for visits and allowing more foreign investment.

He did not mention any official estimates, but rumours have it that some 10,000 visitors are ex-

pected from August to December and more still in 1994.

Cuba's economy has been crippled by a three-decade-old embargo imposed by the United States and the breakup of the Soviet Union, its sponsor and major trading partner since Castro came to power in 1959.

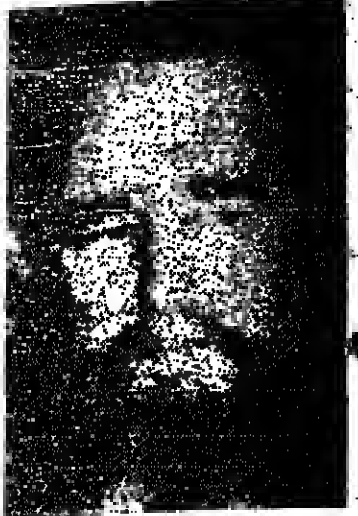
The combination has made it extremely difficult for Cuba to buy the fuel needed to power factories, agricultural machinery and power plants.

But in Washington, State Department officials said Monday that U.S. restrictions on Cuban exports sending dollars to relatives back home had not been changed.

Cuba's plan to change its laws to allow its citizens to own dollars "doesn't have any impact on the U.S. embargo" against Havana, State Department spokesman Mike McCurry said.

"I think U.S. individuals may send up to \$300 every three months of a household of a close relative in Cuba. Those restrictions will stay in place," he said.

Regarding the possibility of lifting the long-standing ration



Fidel Castro

system, President Castro told the Cuban people that the prevailing economic difficulties made that highly unlikely in the near future.

"I think that day is so distant that perhaps some of your grandsons or even your great-grandsons may live to see it," President Castro said.

He criticised the political transformation of Eastern Europe, saying that "socialism should have been perfected, but never destroyed."

"World hegemonism should never have been surrendered to imperialism (the United States) without firing a single shot, in a manner of speaking," he added.

BMW earnings fall sharply in half year

MUNICH, Germany (R) — Luxury German car maker BMW Tuesday reported a sharper than expected fall in first-half 1993 earnings, triggering a heavy fall in the company's stock price on the Frankfurt bourse.

Reflecting the sluggish state of the German car market, Bayerische Motoren Werke (BMW) A.G. said its group net profit fell to 256 million marks (\$148.1 million) from 421 million (\$244.5 million) in the same period last year.

The near 40 per cent fall was well above share analysts' expectations of a drop of 20 to 30 per cent.

Group turnover slumped to 14.7 billion marks (\$8.54 billion) from 16.16 billion (\$9.38 billion).

while car production dropped to 277,000 from 312,986.

Its share price fell to 562 marks, down 14.50 from its day's peak of 576.50 and off 16.50 on the day.

The group said it still expected to make a profit for the whole of 1993 despite producing and selling fewer cars.

BMW, which made a group net profit of 726 million marks (\$421.6 million) in 1992, has withstood the market downturn better than most of its competitors.

The company said its initial efforts to improve earnings were aimed at consolidating its business at the current level and increasing the attractiveness of the marque with new models.

Civil service layoffs seen likely in Cameroon

YAOUNDE (R) — Cameroon appears to be edging towards mass lay-offs in its bloated civil service to regain the confidence of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"World Bank-sponsored studies on how to cut civil service salary expenses are close to completion," a report on state radio has said.

The independent and usually reliable newspaper Dikalo said recently President Paul Biya's government was trying to cut the 170,000-strong civil service by 25,000 by the end of the year.

The figure was described as accurate by a source in the civil

service ministry who declined to be quoted by name.

Economists say the IMF is not willing to sign a new standby agreement with Cameroon until the civil service is cut in size.

The Central African country trimmed civil service salaries by between 10 and 30 per cent last January as part of measures to cope with growing domestic and foreign debt and declining export and tax revenues.

None of the expected unrest followed the salary cuts but economists say stronger actions needed. Civil servants are already growing used to late payment of monthly salaries.

Saudi imports total \$33.3b

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia's 1992 imports rose by 14.35 per cent while its non-oil exports went down by 3.7 per cent in the same year, Saudi newspapers have said.

They quoted official statistics as showing that imports in 1992 rose to 125 billion riyals (\$33.3 billion), up 14.35 per cent from 1991.

Imports from the United States accounted for 22.5 per cent of Saudi Arabia's imports in 1992 from Japan 14 per cent and 11 per cent from Britain.

Non-oil exports went down by 3.7 per cent to 12.5 billion riyals (\$3.3 billion) in 1992 from 13.02 billion riyals (\$3.47 billion) in 1991.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY JULY 28, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Look to banking experts for new ideas and support that will help you add to your present holdings. Be your most positive and dynamic, without getting involved in all the details. No procrastinating.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Attend to whatever material concerns have been left undone, then avoid a newcomer who is demanding and tonight go to entertainment with a congenial companion.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can tie together loose ends of personal desires now, tonight don't get upset over an obligation and discuss money matters with your family.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You have a private plan that requires more attention, then avoid a demanding associate while tonight you can enjoy yourself with kin and neighbours.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Continue a discussion with friends until issues are resolved in the daytime then do your tasks conscientiously while tonight chat with an expert about your money position.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You have worldly activities to finish in the right way, then this afternoon is the time to do nothing to annoy mate, tonight be with mentally alert friends at amusements.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You see how a new activity will be beneficial to your progress, then don't get involved in any family

dispute while tonight a friend aids your worldly ambitions.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have a good day now to get into material problems with a business person, while tonight you find a communication can cause you anxiety and be alert to new jobs.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Finish arrangements between yourself and an associate, then do nothing to threaten your financial security, tonight get an expert to help you with a money matter.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) The morning is fine for working on the completion of a project, in the afternoon don't force your views on others, tonight go out with a new site.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Arrange whatever recreation you want to have in the future, then be sure to handle an intimate problem, tonight seek ways to earn more benefits from work you do.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Continue in the morning to arrange improved conditions at your home, in the afternoon get together with outside associates for amusements, tonight perfect a talent.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Take time out in the daytime to get practical correspondence behind you, tonight do nothing to upset your own clan and get into scheduling future activities.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



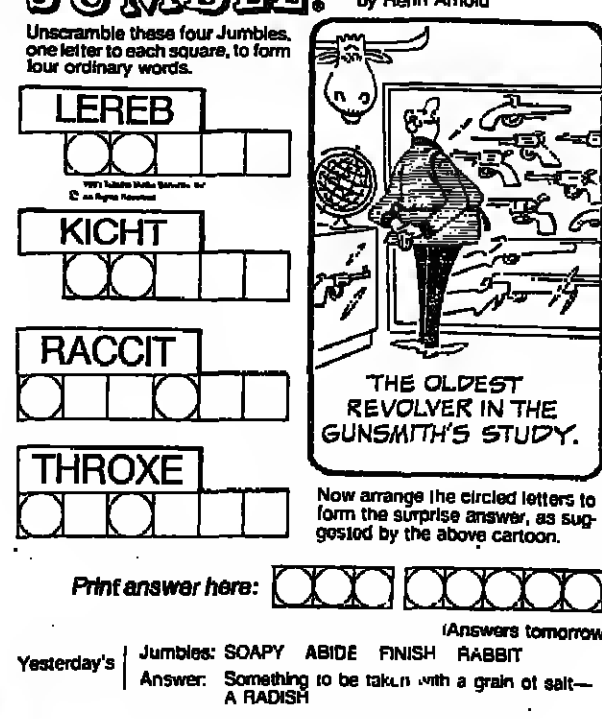
Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF



JUMBLE



THE Daily Crossword



ASIAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JORDANIAN
TELEPHONE: 660173 / 660174
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 27/7/1993

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADED VOLUME	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	299,625	175.000	177.000
RAJF OF JORDAN	8,193	5.200	5.250
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	100,634	2.100	2.150
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	16,317	4.950	4.950
THE HOUSING BANK	65,538	5.930	5.900
JORDAN JORDAN BANK	63,948	3.360	3.380
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	10,675	4.370	4.370
JORDAN JORDAN BANK	49,557	5.070	5.060
JORDAN JORDAN BANK	4,865	4.740	4.660
JORDAN JORDAN BANK	42,710	5.090	5.050
JORDAN JORDAN BANK	3,475	6.850	6.750
SETI ELAL SAVINGS INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	5,855	5.350	5.100
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT	62,450	2.090	2.110
WILLIAMSON INVESTMENT BANK	170,370	5.270	5.270
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	31,440	2.980	2.970
JORDANIAN ANILIA INSURANCE	6,213	3.980	4.150
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	91,304	2.380	2.350
JORDANIAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	2,745	2.310	2.370
JORDANIAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	7,794	7.000	7.000
JORDANIAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	9,200	5.250	5.450
JORDANIAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	24,656	4.730	4.450
JORDANIAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	12,076	0.790	0.790
JORDANIAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	1,197	1.140	1.140
JORDANIAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	492	1.940	1.980
JORDANIAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	1,780	1.140	1.140
JORDANIAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	1,780	1.140	1.140
JORDANIAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	5,330	9.500	9.500
JORDANIAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	7,410	2.380	2.350
JORDANIAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	3,184	2.800	2.770
JORDANIAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	1,197	1.140	1.140
JORDANIAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	195,001	2.990	2.940
JORDANIAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	11,512	11.020	10.600
JORDANIAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	148,120	8.750	8.750
JORDANIAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	11,170	11.800	11.800
JORDANIAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	1,073,548	2.380	2.350
JORDANIAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	761	7.200	7.670
JORDANIAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	30,910	2.320	2.380
JORDANIAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	10,170	2.950	3.030
JORDANIAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	3,128	3.500	3.580
JORDANIAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	2,390	2.100	2.050
JORDANIAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	3,238	0.580	0.580
JORDANIAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	215,208	20.460	20.500
JORDANIAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	16,137	2.320	2.380
JORDANIAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	10,170	10.000	10.400
JORDANIAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	24,435	7.130	7.110
JORDANIAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	20,800	0.800	0.810
JORDANIAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	17,183	4.350	4.350
JORDANIAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	2,930	5.550	5.510
JORDANIAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	7,813	2.270	2.310
JORDANIAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	11,794	0.510	0.510
JORDANIAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	23,620	10.400	10.500
JORDANIAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	22,187	0.800	0.810
JORDANIAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	33,937	4.220	4.180
JORDANIAN DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	137,019	5.860	5.900
TOTAL	2,514,592		

TRADED VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET: 1,738,663
TRADED VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET: 1,738,663

Privatisation row threatens Greek government stability

ATHENS (R) — Nationwide strikes against privatisation disrupted transport and services Tuesday, and Greece's conservative government also faced internal strife over selling major utilities to the private sector.

Urban transport stopped, banks, post office, services and train schedules were disrupted and many areas had power cuts, and about 2,000 workers marched through the streets of Athens shouting anti-government slogans.

"You are thieves, not governors," the strikers shouted and replaced the sign outside the national economy ministry with one reading "ministry of national sales".

The General Confederation of Greek Workers (GSEE), Greece's largest labour body, called the strikes to protest against the privatisation of the power and phone companies, refineries and state-owned hotels.

But some of these privatisation plans have found enemies even

within the ruling New Democracy Party.

With a slim majority of 152 deputies in the 300-seat parliament, the government risks defeat of its privatisation bills. This would threaten its stability and seriously damage its credibility less than a year before elections.

Although a motion of no-confidence cannot be submitted to parliament before September, at least six months after the last one called by the Socialist opposition, political analysts say it would be difficult for a government that cannot make laws to stay in power.

Parliament voted last week to allow the private production of electricity for the public power corporation only after National Economy Minister Stephanos Manos amended the bill and assured conservative deputies that electricity prices would not be affected.

Senior party members also objected to a tax bill being discussed

Tuesday, saying it could lead to the management of state utility monopolies being handed over to private firms.

The government assured its deputies that utilities would be privatised through separate bills. A bill privatising 49 per cent of the state phone company (OTE) is expected to be presented to parliament in August.

The government wants to sell 35 per cent of OTE to a strategic investor who will also manage the profitable but ineffective company. Labour unions, opposition and ruling party deputies oppose the handing over of management and threaten to vote down the bill.

Mr. Manos has said no international company would bid for OTE unless it also got management. Failure to sell part of OTE would ruin any chance the government has of meeting its budget revenue targets. About \$1.4 billion is expected from the sale of OTE.

UAE reports \$187 million balance of payments deficit

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) reported a balance of payments deficit last year despite recovering from the Gulf crisis in 1991.

The central bank, which announced the deficit in its annual report, blamed capital outflows.

The report showed a 686 million dirhams (\$187 million) balance of payments deficit in 1992 compared to a surplus of five billion dirhams (\$1.4 billion) in 1991.

The balance of payments reflects the UAE's net transactions with the rest of the world in terms of trade, services, and capital transfers in 1992.

But economists did not expect the deficit to threaten the Gulf Arab state's position for imports or restrict other spending.

The UAE, the Gulf's main

reeport centre, last reported a deficit in 1990, the year Iraq invaded Kuwait. The central bank said costs linked to the crisis pushed the balance of payments that year one billion dirhams (\$300 million) into the red.

The latest central bank report said the UAE has a surplus of foreign assets estimated at 850 million dirhams (\$232 million) and reserves were 690 million dirhams (\$188 million) in 1992.

"The excess of foreign assets will offset the effects of the balance of payments deficit. They can cover it," a bank economist said.

The report said capital outflows of 10 billion dirhams (\$2.7 billion) depressed balance of payments improvements in 1992. The UAE's current accounts in 1992.

exceeded the current account surplus," it said.

The current account surplus was strengthened after the UAE cut foreign aid to 2.7 billion dirhams (\$738 million) in 1992 from 17.4 billion dirhams (\$4.9 billion) in 1991 during the Gulf war and its aftermath, the report said.

The trade surplus slimmed to 21 billion dirhams (\$5.7 billion) in 1992 from 30 billion dirhams (\$8 billion) in 1991 after imports rose to 64 billion dirhams (\$17 billion) from \$51 billion dirhams (\$14 billion).

The UAE exported 86 billion dirhams (\$23 billion) in 1992 compared to \$1 billion dirhams (\$22 billion) in 1991. That figure includes oil and gas exports which shrank by one billion dirhams to \$6 billion dirhams (\$15 billion) in 1992.

Algerian industrial output falls

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's industrial output shrank by 7.5 per cent in the first quarter of 1993 compared to the same period last year, the industry ministry said Tuesday.

Official figures showed industrial output had already fallen 1.6 per cent last year compared to 1991 when factories were working at 57 per cent capacity. Last year the ratio fell to 53.8 per cent of capacity.

The ministry blamed this year's decline in production on shortages of raw materials and imported products, and a slump in sales of manufactured goods.

A government austerity programme is aimed at reducing im-

ports by limiting foreign exchange allocations to "enterprises that produce essential goods."

More than 70 per cent of Algeria's petroleum export revenues of \$12 billion a year go to pay off the country's foreign debt estimated at \$26 billion.

Prime Minister Abdessalam Belaid has said it will take three years for Algeria "to extricate itself from the internal debt cycle and two years to start expanding again."

Russian arms sales drop

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Russian arms sales to the Third World fell sharply in 1992 from their record 1986 level, according to a congressional report.

In 1992, Russia's arms sales totalled \$1.3 billion, down from \$28.8 billion in 1986, said the Congressional Research Service report cited by the New York Times.

Overall arms sales to the Third World in 1992 fell 20 per cent from 1991, to \$25.9 billion from \$32.6 billion, the report said.

The decline in Russian sales was attributed to the end of cold war tensions and the reduction in military aid programmes by Mos-

cow that allowed client states to receive discounted weapons.

Despite the decline, U.S. officials have expressed concern recently on Moscow's efforts to raise cash by selling weapons.

The United States increased its share of the Third World arms market to 57 per cent last year, even though the overall volume of sales declined, the Times said.

U.S. arms sales to the Third World totalled \$13.6 billion in 1992.

Saudi Arabia is the Third World's largest client, buying about a third of the arms, said the report based on information from the U.S. Defence Department

and intelligence agencies.

The study said the Middle East purchased 38 per cent of the arms sold from 1989 to 1992. Saudi Arabia alone bought \$35.9 billion worth of arms during this period.

Sales of F-16 fighter planes to Taiwan and Saudi Arabia and anti-missile batteries to Kuwait represented the major deals for the United States, the study said.

The United States was followed on the list by France, with \$3.8 billion in sales, and Britain with \$2.4 billion.

Asia was the second largest arms market, representing 29.5 per cent of the arms sales to the Third World, the report noted.

Financial Jordan Times

Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK	LOUVE
Sterling Pound	1.5005	1.4985
Deutsche Mark	1.7246	1.7265
Swiss Franc	1.5197	1.5222
French Franc	5.8875	5.8880**
Japanese Yen	106.70	106.74
European Currency Unit	1.1270	1.1260**

1990 Per 100
*Parity 1990 = 100
**Parity 1990 = 100

Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 27.7.93

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.06	3.18	3.43	3.75
Sterling Pound	5.87	5.87	5.81	5.81
Deutsche Mark	7.00	6.81	6.62	6.23
Swiss Franc	6.63	6.59	6.50	6.35
French Franc	10.75	8.75	7.62	6.62
Japanese Yen	3.12	3.18	3.09	3.09
European Currency Unit	8.81	8.12	7.56	7.00

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding 1 U.S. Dollar, 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 27.7.93

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.695	0.697
Sterling Pound	1.0404	1.0456
Deutsche Mark	0.4024	0.4044
Swiss Franc	0.4560	0.4583
French Franc	0.1179	0.1185
Japanese Yen	0.6506	0.6539
Dutch Guilder	0.3578	0.3596
Swedish Krona	0.0864	0.0868
Italian Lira	0.0432	0.0434
Belgian Franc	0.01942	0.01952

Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 27.7.93

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8180	1.8180
Lebanese Lira	0.03925	0.0410
Saudi Riyal	0.1848	0.1855
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2200	2.2900
Omani Riyal	0.1880	0.1920
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2300
Omani Riyal	1.7650	1.8200
UAE Dirham	0.1880	0.1920
Greek Drachma	0.2915	0.3215
Cypriot Pound	1.3415	1.3815

Per 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	Canadian dollar
1.2825/35	Deutsche marks
1.7215/25	Dutch guilders
1.9385/95	Swiss francs
1.5190/00	Belgian francs
35.72/73	French francs
5.8750/00	Italian lire
1608.50/5	Japanese yen
106.75/85	Swedish crowns
8.0200/00	Norwegian crowns
7.3500/00	Danish crowns
6.6940/40	
One sterling	\$1.4975/85
One ounce of gold	\$393.25/393.75

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Fighting rages in Sarajevo as mediators launch peace bid

SARAJEVO (R) — Fierce fighting was reported in Sarajevo and other flashpoints in Bosnia Tuesday as international mediators in Geneva launched non-stop negotiations to try to end the republic's 16-month war.

As Bosnia's Serb and Croat leaders and their political masters in neighbouring Serbia and Croatia arrived in Geneva, international mediator, Lord Owen predicted no quick breakthrough in the talks.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, whose forces have taken 70 per cent of the war-ravaged republic, said the Geneva meeting marked "the last chance to get an honest peace". NATO moved closer to military intervention, saying it expected to provide air cover over Bosnia "sooner rather than later" after a weekend artillery attack on French peacekeepers in Sarajevo.

U.N. commanders, angered by the attack which they have pinned firmly on the Bosnian Serbs in spite of denials by their leaders, have threatened to retaliate if they are attacked again.

NATO has assembled a force of 60 combat aircraft at bases in Italy and forward air controllers needed to guide them were believed to be in place in Bosnia.

Bosnian radio said Serb forces besieging Sarajevo were continuing to pound Zuc Hill in the north of the city with heavy artillery. In spite of a ceasefire agreed by the three parties in advance of the Geneva talks, shelling could be

heard in Sarajevo, with an intense barrage erupting around the Zuc area followed by a pall of black smoke rising from the hills.

The Belgrade-based news agency Tanjug said the attack had been launched by Muslim units, while Serb forces pushed them back and destroyed a tank.

Zuc Hill is one of two remaining high points overlooking Sarajevo still in the hands of Muslim-led government troops defending the city.

On the other, Mount Igman, which controls the western approaches to the city, Serbs were reported to be attacking with artillery and infantry. The radio said all attacks had been repulsed and 12 Serb fighters had been killed.

The importance of Igman was underlined by a senior Bosnian Serb officer, Major-General Manolilo Milovanovic, who told Tanjug that Muslim forces were trying to establish links with other Muslim-held areas of Bosnia.

"Our units will not permit the breakthrough of Muslim formations from Igman," he said.

Fighting was reported in Brcko as Serbs battled to widen a supply corridor in northern Bosnia linking Serbia proper with Serb-held territories in north-west Bosnia and Croatia.

Bosnian radio said Serbs had kept up their artillery bombardment of government positions throughout the night and tried unsuccessfully to infiltrate com-

mando units through government lines.

On Monday, Serb sources said at least 30 soldiers on both sides had been killed as Serbs pushed back Muslim forces around Brcko, which lies on the Sava River.

Fighting was reported in central Bosnia, where Croatian radio said Muslim forces had broken through Bosnian Croat defence lines at the strategic settlement of Banovo Brdo near Fojnica, captured by Muslims last week.

In Geneva, mediator Lord Owen said he did not expect dramatic breakthroughs, adding: "I think it will take time."

"We've said we're ready to sit here until we get a final settlement and that's our attitude to it, but I don't think we can urge people to take very important decisions about their country against a deadline of time," he told reporters.

The mediators said they did not expect to sit all the factions down together in a "plenary session" of the conference until Wednesday and planned bilateral meetings instead.

On the table is a Serbian-Croatian plan to make Bosnia a confederation of three ethnic mini-states, a plan Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic has rejected as legitimising Serb and Croat "genocide" against Muslims.

Bosnia's 10-strong presidency instead wants to create a federal Bosnia with a more powerful

central government and stronger human rights guarantees.

Besides Mr. Karadzic and Mr. Izetbegovic, the Geneva session is expected to be attended by Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban and by President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia and President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia.

Mr. Milosevic said Tuesday he expected Bosnian peace talks in Geneva to result in a significant step forward.

"I expect a significant step forward at these talks, because all the main conditions exist for reaching the agreement which will provide permanent peace," Tanjug quoted him as saying on arrival at Geneva airport.

Mr. Milosevic, who has backed a plan to divide Bosnia into a confederation of three ethnic mini-states, said progress towards peace would depend on whether there was discussion of maps showing how such an arrangement would look on the ground.

"Whether a serious step forward will be made depends on whether the main issues will be discussed, and one of these is the maps," Tanjug quoted him as saying.

"The solution offered is just for all three sides and without doubt, if this step forward is made, we can expect a quick, positive solution of the problem."

"And that means to reach peace. Peace as the basis for all other solutions. And all other solutions are easier to reach than this," he said.

Japan neutrals move closer to opposition bloc

TOKYO (R) — Two neutral parties committed to cleaning up Japanese politics moved closer to an opposition alliance Tuesday — raising the prospect of an end to almost four decades of Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) rule.

The Japan New Party (JNP) and the Harbinger New Party, whose 49 members hold the balance of parliamentary power after the July 18 general election, held talks on policy with the five-party opposition alliance Tuesday.

There was no word on how the talks went. But alliance officials said discussions would continue into Tuesday night and Wednesday morning and would cover ways to boost the sluggish economy and foreign and defence issues.

In the election the scandal-tainted LDP lost its majority in the 511-member lower house of

parliament, taking just 227 seats. It needs the JNP-Harbinger votes to get its new leader chosen as prime minister in parliament and to stay in power.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa resigned as LDP president last week to take responsibility for the election fiasco.

Before joining any coalition, the JNP-Harbinger bloc insisted suitors accept a plan to clean up politics, tarnished by a series of scandals in the past decade.

The reforms include stiff anti-corruption laws, a ban on political donations by private firms and the introduction of a simple, lecture system.

The five opposition parties — the Socialists, the Buddhist-backed Komeito, the Japan Renewal Party of LDP defectors, the centrist Democratic Socialists and the tiny Socialist Democratic Federation — have accepted re-

form.

The LDP also accepted the proposals at the hastily called convention Tuesday. Newspapers called the move hypocritical because the ruling party rejected such plans just last month.

Speaking after the LDP decision, JNP leader Morihiro Hosokawa again refused to consider forming a coalition with the ruling party.

There is no chance that we would join hands with the LDP unless they split into two," he said in an interview with Kyodo News Agency.

His ally, Harbinger leader Masayoshi Takemura, was more cautious. "It would be difficult for the LDP to carry out wholesale repentance and start all over again," he said.

"At the same time, a seven-party government would be very fragile and only a notch above a

majority (in parliament)."

Socialist Party Secretary-General Hirotsugu Akamatsu was upbeat about the prospects of a union with the neutral parties. He said there was a good chance of a summit of all seven opposition or neutral party leaders Thursday.

Such a summit could seal the formation of a non-LDP government for the first time since 1955.

The LDP rejected political reforms in June, triggering mass defections which brought down the Miyazawa government and led to the party's worst general election performance.

The political confusion forced the LDP to postpone convening parliament. Party officials now say it will be called on Aug. 5, three days later than originally planned.

The crucial vote on the next prime minister could take place around Aug. 14, they said.



South Korean relief workers and family members Tuesday try to identify the dead bodies pulled out of the wreckage of the crash (AFP photo)

Rescuers call off search for S. Korea plane crash survivors

HAENAM, South Korea (R) — Rescuers ended a search for survivors of South Korea's worst domestic air crash on Tuesday after finding 66 bodies, including a mother and young son clasped in each other's arms.

Forty-four people survived when an Asiana Airlines Boeing 737-500 smashed into a cliff in driving wind and rain on the southern tip of the Korean peninsula Monday.

But still missing was a four-year-old girl, sister of the boy found in his mother's arms, her family said.

Twenty-six of the survivors were badly injured, government officials said. The death toll is expected to rise.

Distraught friends and relatives, some of them hysterical, identified their dead at a makeshift morgue at a local school.

Scuffles broke out when members of a grieving family complained about the poor quality of the coffins provided. They said

they contained mould or fungus.

Two or three caskets were smashed in the fracas.

The body of Chung Yoo-Soo, 35, was found embracing her six-year-old son Keung-Suk, the domestic Yonhap News Agency said. Mother and son were laid in a single coffin.

Officials said the body of Chung's missing daughter, four-year-old Lee Song-Mee, may be trapped under the wrecked fuselage.

The pilot had tried three times to land in bad weather at Mokpo Airport, 310 kilometres southwest of Seoul. Soon afterwards the plane crashed into a cliff in a forested, unpopulated area some seven kilometres away.

Kim Hyun-Shik, 20, clawed his way out of the wreckage and ran two kilometres to a police station to raise the alarm.

According to a local government official, the flight from Seoul was carrying 110 passengers and crew, four more than listed on the manifest.

He denied local news reports that put the number at 112 saying the bodies of two infants were counted twice.

Airline executives said children carried on their parents' laps and not issued with tickets probably accounted for any discrepancies. They did not rule out the possibility of finding more children's bodies.

Late July is the height of the South Korean summer holiday season and flights are heavily booked.

All but three of the passengers were South Korean. Two of the three Japanese on board survived the impact, which tore the aircraft in two.

Asiana engineers had recovered the flight recorder but it would take about a month to analyse the contents, airline Vice President Park Yong-Tae told reporters.

Boeing sent three investigators from headquarters in Seattle, Washington, to assist in the investigation.

Swollen rivers converge on Kansas City

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Thousands of businesses and homeowners piled sandbags at their doors, boarded up their windows and cleared out as the Missouri and Kansas Rivers closed in, both bulging toward a crest Tuesday.

"It's an unknown what will happen," said George Hanley, spokesman for the Army Corps of Engineers. "That's the reality. The levees have never been tested."

The Kansas River, which converges with the Missouri at Kansas City, was expected to crest at 55 feet (17 metres) Tuesday morning — well above the flood stage of 33 feet (10 metres) and close to the top of a 57-foot (17-metre) high levee. The Missouri was expected to crest later in the day at 49 feet (15 metres), 17 feet (5 metres) over flood stage, and just below the flood walls, which are about 52 (16 metres) feet high.

About 3,500 people were evacuated Monday night from Armourdale, a low-lying residential and commercial neighbourhood in Kansas City, Kan. No

immediate evacuations were ordered in Kansas City, Mo., across the Missouri River.

Northwestern Missouri was under a flash flood watch early Tuesday that could cause the water to slosh into both Kansas City, Kan., and Kansas City, Mo.

Hanley said the extent of any flooding also depended on how much water from the Missouri backed up into the Kansas where the rivers meet.

Water crept into mostly empty armourdale before dawn. At Taylor's and Mike's Fireworks Store, employees and friends of owner Michael Koska packed a warehouse full of fireworks into trucks as the water rose.

"I saw the '51 flood," Koska said, directing a convoy of trucks. "This could be worse."

Flooding across the Midwest had been blamed for at least 42 deaths. Damage has been put at more than \$10 billion.

About 50 miles (80 kilometres) north of Kansas City, Mo., 33,000 St. Joseph-area residents remained without water for a

fourth day. Floodwaters knocked out the city's water treatment plant Saturday. Officials said the plant may not be fixed until Friday or later.

Missouri looked to Iowa for advice. After floodwaters knocked out Des Moines' water treatment plant, some 250,000 people went 12 days without running water until last week.

"We've already provided them with some technical advice on how to set up water distribution sites," said Richard Vohs, a spokesman for Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad.

South of St. Louis along the Mississippi, some residents of St. Genevieve ignored warnings to evacuate. "I don't want to move unless I have to. It just disrupts everybody's lives," said Doris Beckerman, who owns a nine-room, red-brick house built in 1877. A tall levee runs across her back yard.

The river is expected to crest at St. Genevieve next week at 48 feet (14½ metres). Volunteers worked to build up the levees to 50 feet (16 metres).

6 die in S. African township clash; church attack death toll rises to 11

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — Battles broke out in a township squatter camp Tuesday after attackers staged a pre-dawn raid that killed five people, including three children, police said.

President F.W. de Klerk urged ANC leader Nelson Mandela and Inkatha Freedom Party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi to meet in an effort to persuade their followers to stop fighting. Later, government officials planned talks with Inkatha in hopes of luring it back to constitutional negotiations.

A draft constitution was unveiled Monday after months of negotiations and promises a democratic government elected by blacks and whites for the first time in the country's history.

The pro-apartheid Conservative Party and the conservative black Inkatha Freedom Party immediately rejected the document, saying it smacked of ANC-government collaboration and did not go far enough to ensure autonomy for ethnic groups and regions. They boycotted Monday's talks in protest, and other negotiators suspended talks Tuesday to give the two parties time to reconsider.

But ANC Secretary-General Cyril Ramaphosa indicated negotiations would continue as planned Wednesday, even if the Conservatives and Inkatha refused to return.

The rising political tensions raised the spectre of new violence, which could threaten plans for elections in April 1994. Violence against blacks and whites has increased with the pace of negotiations, a sign of the panic extremists feel as their demands go unanswered.

Police Col. Tienie Halgryn said 30 to 40 people entered a Soweto squatter camp at about 3 a.m. and hurled firebombs into several shacks. The bodies of a man and three children, aged three to six, were found in one burned shack, Halgryn said. Another man was shot to death, and three people suffered bullet wounds.

Residents fought back and killed one attacker, and police arrested two others, he said. All were residents of a Soweto workers' hostel occupied mainly by Zulus, who form the bulk of Inkatha's support.

Mr. De Klerk, speaking after a meeting with international peace monitors, said a summit between Mr. Mandela and Mr. Buthelezi could make a "tremendous contribution" to peace by showing their followers the adversaries can get along.

Past summits, however, have proved fruitless in ending political fighting that has killed 10,000 blacks in the past five years.

Eight people died in overnight fighting in other Johannesburg-area townships, and the death toll from a white church ambush rose to 11 overnight. Earlier reports had said a 12th person died, but

Police Maj. Des Segal said that was a mistake. More than 40 people remained hospitalised, many in serious condition.

Black and white political leaders denounced the ambush Sunday, but the leading black group, the ANC, said it must not be allowed to halt negotiations on the constitution.

The hardline black Azanian People's Liberation Army (APLA) denied Tuesday that its guerrillas carried out Sunday night's attack on the cape town church.

"We are not responsible. We have contacted our field commanders and reports are that APLA is not responsible... this is the ultimate statement, it comes from the high command," APLA publicity and information chief Jonny Majosi told Reuters by telephone from Dar Es Salaam in Tanzania.

Three of the 34 wounded remained in intensive care.

Mr. Majosi said although APLA, the exiled military wing of the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC), had attacked "soft" targets in the past, an attack on a church was "not APLA policy."

"We have defined our main targets as the security forces," Mr. Majosi said callers claiming APLA responsibility for the attack in telephone calls to reporters "might not be our people at all."

Jagger turns 50

LONDON (R) — Mick Jagger, the 1960s bad boy of rock 'n' roll, turned 50 Monday but many of his fans may not want to be reminded their hero has passed a milestone of middle age.

Jagger was recording an album with the Rolling Stones Monday at guitarist Ron Wood's Dublin home. He was unavailable to discuss the delicate issue of his age. "I would think Mick feels hideous about being 50," Tony King, a former employee, told one newspaper.

"Probably one part of him shrugs it off but when you're 50 you know you're older." The Rolling Stones' former manager Andrew Oldham told the Guardian: "Well, honey, I'm glad I didn't have to work that hard, because I would hate to have those lines on my face."

The Jaggeres threw a lavish party ostensibly to celebrate France's Bastille Day in London last week but his entourage made it clear this was not a 50th birthday bash. The irony of Jagger being a grandfather and older than U.S. President Bill Clinton was not lost on columnists who asked, using a Jagger lyric, whether time was still on his side.

His strutting, gyrating act as he belts out Satisfaction and Let's Spend The Night Together still fills stadiums and generates millions of dollars. His relationship with his wife, American model Jerry Hall, still grabs headlines. Now a huge business enterprise, the Rolling Stones have become the grand old men of rock — an image that would have horrified the 1960s rebels.

Jagger is amongst Britain's richest men.

French gambled away \$11.2 billion in 1992

PARIS (AFP) — The French gambled away a record 65 billion francs (\$11.2 billion) on horse-racing and lotteries in 1992, 16 per cent more than in 1991, according to figures released Tuesday by the National Statistics Institute (INSEE). The amount represented 1.3 per cent of household income before tax and was more than the French spent on books and newspapers (63 billion francs - \$10.8 billion in 1991) and a third as much as again as the amount spent on alcohol.

INSEE said that spending on games of chance had increased every year since 1970. Playing national lottery games and scratch-and-win cards had gained in popularity and had almost caught up with betting on horses. One adult in two currently gambles, according to INSEE.

More people take part in lotteries, but they stake smaller sums than gamblers' backing horses, 1,100 francs (\$189.6) a year on average, against 5,200 francs (\$866.5) on racing. Men spend more than women. Race-track devotees are likely to be male and working class, while lotteries attract punters from all socio-professional backgrounds.

French go mad over British bra

PARIS (AFP) — The hottest fashion item this summer in France has been around for at least 20 years and is made in Britain. But in the couture capital of the world, women are fighting to get their hands on a Gossard Wonderbra, which went on sale here two months ago for the first time in its history. Since the bra which promises you can "say goodbye to your feet" was rediscovered by top models and stars in the past couple of years, the firm of Gossard has been unable to manufacture enough of its creation. But although the bra has been marketed in 50 countries worldwide, Gossard had never tried selling it in France, perhaps an indirect homage to the allure of French women. "The demand is impressive," saleswomen at Janik, one of the 200 points of sale for the bra said. The entire stock vanished in 10 days, with as many men as women snapping them up. At Charvy, another lingerie specialist, customers are buying 100 Wonderbras a week, "and we could sell 200 if we could get hold of them." Some women have been doing the round of every stockist in a desperate search for their size.

Man held after second British Museum break-in

LONDON (R) — Police arrested a man after a break-in at the British Museum Tuesday, less than a week after thieves stole Roman treasures worth an estimated £250,000 (\$375,400). Police said the man was held during the night after security staff at the London Museum, home of one of the world's greatest antiquities collections, found a display case had been disturbed. "A man is in custody and will be questioned later today," a police spokesman said. She said it was not clear if anything had been taken and police were investigating a possible link between the break-in and last Friday's burglary when Roman jewellery and coins were stolen.

NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. pilot killed in F-16 collision

SEOUL (AFP) — One pilot was killed and another was injured when their U.S. Air Force (USAF) F-16 fighters collided in flames Tuesday at Kunsan Air Base in South Korea, a U.S. military spokesman said. The two single-seat jet fighters collided on the runway at the air base, some 270 kilometres (160 miles) south of Seoul, at about 3:30 p.m. (0630 GMT), the spokesman said. Earlier reports said the two pilots were both alive. The name of the pilot who was killed was being withheld pending notification of next-of-kin. Local press reports said the accident occurred when the two F-16s collided as one was landing and the other was taking off. The collision forced the closure of the air base for civilian flights, the national Yonhap News Agency said. At the time of the accident, the F-16s were on routine training missions, the spokesman said.

Hong Kong talks hit more trouble

PEKING (AFP) — China warned Tuesday that talks with Britain on democratic reforms for Hong Kong may be threatened by recent steps by the colony's Governor Chris Patten, which it rejected as "unacceptable." Mr. Patten last Friday named members of an election commission charged with drawing electoral boundaries and ensuring that local district and legislative elections in 1994 and 1995 are conducted fairly. Also last week Hong Kong's legislative council agreed to merge three important district boards. "In disregard of opposition from the Chinese side," the Foreign Ministry here said, "the British side has contrived at the unilateral actions of the British Hong Kong authorities designed to create a fait accompli." The foreign Ministry statement said Mr. Patten's decisions directly concerned electoral arrangements and should therefore be discussed and agreed by both sides.

U.S. presses Vietnam on MIA issue

SINGAPORE (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher told Vietnam's Foreign Ministry Tuesday that lifting the U.S. trade embargo against Hanoi would depend on resolving the fate of missing American servicemen. Mr. Christopher told Nguyen Manh Cam, as they posed for photographers, that President Bill Clinton "is very clear that it will be progress (on the MIA issue) that will determine whether there is progress toward improving the relationship between our two countries." It was the second meeting between the two men, who first met Sunday night during a dinner for Asian Foreign Ministers attending the Association of South East Asian Nations' annual meeting. Mr. Christopher's message was designed to meet the concerns of U.S. veterans groups and relatives of missing Americans who believe the Clinton administration was moving too quickly to normalise relations with Hanoi.

China, U.S. hold security talks

PEKING (AFP) — China and the United States discussed President Bill Clinton's proposal for a worldwide suspension of nuclear weapons testing and other issues here Tuesday, the official Xinhua News Agency said. Undersecretary of State for International Security Affairs Lynn Davis met with China's Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, Xinhua said. On Monday, she met with Vice Foreign Minister Liu Huaqing. Besides the moratorium on testing, the officials also discussed "other issues of common concern," Xinhua said, but provided no details.

Managua had prior knowledge of attack

MANAGUA (AFP) — The government of President Violeta Chamorro had prior knowledge of last week's rebel attack on Esteli, but was hoodwinked by a rebel leader, Police Director Fernando Caldera said. Victor Gallegos, a 38-year-old former army counterinsurgency expert known as "Pedrito the Honduran," promised in negotiations with the government four days before attack that his group would disarm, Caldera said. "We did not expect an attack on the city," Mr. Caldera told reporters late Monday. Some 150 heavily armed members of the Peasant Workers Revolutionary Front under Mr. Gallego's command, identified as disgruntled ex-soldiers under the former Sandinista government, seized parts of the northern city of Esteli Wednesday. Some 1,000 government troops routed the rebels by the following day, but the violent clash left 45 dead and some 100 wounded. Fifty-nine people were arrested but Mr. Gallegos and dozens of his men managed to escape.

Over 2,000 fall sick after U.S. acid leak

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — More than 2,000 people flocked to hospitals for treatment for stinging eyes and burning throats after a leaking railcar derailed a thick cloud of sulphuric acid over the city of Richmond Monday, officials said. Until it was capped by hazardous materials experts almost four hours later, the leakage forced the closure of roads, a subway station and a shipping channel and the closure of libraries and at least one school. A white cloud began forming over Richmond, an industrial centre 15 miles east of San Francisco, after a safety seal broke on a railcar carrying 12,000 gallons (45,424 litres) of oleum, a concentrated form of sulphuric acid. The acid was being onloaded from the railcar into storage tanks at a plant owned by General Chemical Corp., a New Jersey-based company. Officials advised residents in the area of the cloud to stay indoors and to close doors and windows. About 1,030 people were treated at a Kaiser Hospital and clinic in the area and more than 250 were still waiting to be seen, spokesman John Mejia said. Another 850 people were treated at Brookside Hospital in neighbouring San Pablo. Spokesman Jim Beaver said. About 140 other people were treated at three other area hospitals, spokesmen said.

Britons get to hear 'Majorgate'

LONDON (R) — Prime Minister John Major became the latest victim of a British enthusiasm for eavesdropping Tuesday with the publication of private remarks in which he uses strong language and jokingly calls himself a "wimp." The accident-prone prime minister was embarrassed at the weekend by a leak of the same conversation, in which he was reported to have referred to government ministers who disapprove of closer European union as "bastards." A British tabloid went one step further Tuesday and published a full transcript of Mr. Major's alleged off-the-record exchange with a journalist after his government won a vote of confidence on European Union Friday. The Daily Mirror also invited readers to ring a special telephone line to listen to its so-called "scoop of the year," the latest in a long line of unguarded conversations involving public figures to be given great prominence in the press. Mr. Major, regarded by many as a colourful character dogged by indecision, bantered about his struggle to secure approval of the Maastricht Treaty and asks with heavy self-irony: "Why does such a complete wimp like me keep winning?"



Evans wins U.S. swimming title

AUSTIN, Texas (R) — Janet Evans won the 800-metre freestyle at the U.S. National Swimming Championships Monday in a faster time than her gold medal performance at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona.

Evans, 22, a four-time Olympic gold medalist, won her 34th consecutive U.S. national title in 8:23.61, nearly two seconds faster than her Olympic time of 8:25.52. It was also her 16th consecutive 800 freestyle title, a streak started at the 1987 Pan Pacific Championships in Japan.

"If I had swum slow at this meet I probably would have quit, but this is really encouraging," Evans said. "I'm in great shape and there is a lot less pressure on me because people expect less of me now that I'm older."

Evans, world record-holder in the 800 with a time of 8:16.22, is third on the U.S. all-time list for national titles. She is two away from tying second-placed Johnny Weissmuller and has the 200, 400, and 1,500 metres freestyle events still to swim here.

Evans won the 800 freestyle gold medal at the 1992 Olympics and gold medals in the 400-metre individual medley and the 400 and 800 freestyle at the 1988 games in Seoul.

In Monday night's race, Evans led by a full body length after the first 100 metres. No one in the field pushed her.

"I know she can swim faster and she does, too," said her coach Mark Schubert, coach of the 1992 U.S. women's Olympic team.

Evans has been training with men at the University of Southern California. She said she is more relaxed than she has ever been and may compete in the World Aquatic Championships in Rome in September 1994.

American Peter Wright, 20, won the men's 800-metre freestyle in 7:58.90.

The top two finishers in each event during the five-day meet qualify for the Pan Pacific Championships Aug. 12-15 in Kobe, Japan.



Austrian sprint champion admits he took drugs

VIENNA (AFP) — Austrian sprint champion Andreas Berger and his three World Championship relay teammates face a four-year ban after Berger admitted they all took drugs.

Berger, the country's top sprinter, admitted in a television interview: "There are four official cases of doping. We won't bother with a second confirmation test. This is a confession."

The four — Berger, Franz Ratzenberger, Thomas Renner and Gernot Kellermayr, who came 11th in the decathlon in the Barcelona Olympics — were all training for the World Championships in Stuttgart next month.

They were tested randomly on July 7 after a training session at Voelklbruck.

For Berger, 32, holder of the Austrian 100m and 200m records as well as European indoor 60m champion, the scandal certainly marks the end of his career.

Berger said he had been "in a terrible dilemma after two had started in Barcelona."

"Nothing was going right in training any more and so the question came up — give up or use illegal methods."

Director of Austria's Sports Institute Hans Holdhaus said the athletes had taken an anabolic steroid called Methandienone which could have adverse effects on their health and hearts in the long run.

He welcomed Berger's admission, saying: "It's better than having to wait for the results of a second test which in any case would confirm the first results."

"We must now try and find out exactly how these drugs managed to get into Austria and how they are distributed," he said.

Ratzenberger, 28, Gernot Kellermayr, 27, and Thomas Renner, 26, will have to wait with Berger until next month to officially begin their fate.

The International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) will meet on Aug. 12 to discuss the affair, with an automatic four-year ban reserved for drug cheats the likely outcome.

Drum taps set to run in Melbourne cup

MELBOURNE (AFP) — Dual Ascot Gold Cup winner Drum Taps looks set to run in Australia's most prestigious horse race, the Melbourne Cup — if a quarantine wrangle can be sorted out.

Drum Taps' English trainer, William Hastings-Bass, has told the race organisers, Victoria Racing Club (VRC), that his only condition for bringing his classy stayer to Australia is a quarantine station with trackwork facilities.

Northern hemisphere cup runners have to spend three weeks in quarantine overseas and two weeks in Australia before they are allowed to race in the 2.03 million dollar (\$1.38 million) 3200 metre (2 mile) Melbourne Cup at Flemington on Nov. 2.

VRC racing manager Les Benton will meet representatives of the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service Thursday at the nominated quarantine station, the Sandown racecourse here.

"I have every reason to believe that Sandown will be allowed to operate as a private quarantine facility," said Benton Tuesday.

Drum Taps is the equal top weight for the Melbourne Cup with Naturalism, Subzero and Veandercross on 58.5kgs (nine stone) for this year's race.

Benton said Hastings-Bass wanted to make a short "hit-and-run" visit with Drum Taps and did not want the seven-year-old galloper to have a lead-up run before the Melbourne Cup.

"Apparently the hit-and-run visit will be less demanding on the horse," said Benton, who lobbied British trainers for cup entries during a promotional visit there this month.

The Sandown facility will be able to stable four horses, and trainers will have free use of the track.

Benton said he would contact Hastings-Bass and other English trainers Dermot Weld (Vintage Crop) and Clive Brittain (Shamboo) to advise them of permit arrangements for their horses to gallop each morning after entering quarantine.

Overseas horses under quarantine conditions in Australia can only gallop if they are isolated from local horses.

Benton said the VRC had received seven direct cup nominations from Britain and 14 from connections of horses who had raced in the northern hemisphere.

European and French champions Marseille face disgrace over an alleged attempt to rig a crucial league match last season against Valenciennes. They could be thrown out of European Cup competition if found guilty.

Club manager Jean-Louis Bernes, who resigned last week, has been accused of trying to "bribe three opposition players to throw the match and, although Mr. Tapie has not been implicated, he has been gradually drawn into the scandal."

His name was at the centre of questioning Monday when Boro Primorac, the Valenciennes coach at the time, claimed to investigate manager Bernard Beffy that Mr. Tapie approached him to take the blame for the

Peking's Olympic bid tiring — Sydney

SYDNEY (Agencies) — Peking's bid for the 2000 Olympics Games is losing steam, its main rival Sydney said Tuesday.

Chinese organisers, meanwhile, admitted they were preparing for the possibility of losing.

"We have done our utmost but we have to prepare ourselves for two possible outcomes," Chen Xitong, head of the Peking bid committee, was quoted as saying Monday by the official Xinhua News Agency.

Mr. Chen, speaking in Peking to a visiting member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), said the Chinese capital would bid to host the Olympics in the future if it lost the 2000 bid.

In reaction, Bruce Baird, minister responsible for Sydney's bid, said Tuesday that Peking might be using the 2000 bid as a practice run with their real attempt to win the 2004 games.

"From our point of view, the bid from China seems to have lost some of its momentum," Mr. Baird said.

Mr. Baird said the U.S. House of Representatives' call to have Peking's candidacy rejected because of its human rights record was unlikely to harm Sydney's chances of the 2000 bid.

But he warned against becoming too confident, saying Peking "remains a formidable competitor and we should not lull

ourselves into a false sense of security."

The House of Representatives voted by 287 votes to 99 Monday to call on the IOC to reject Peking because of massive human rights violations.

Sydney is the acknowledged front-runner for hosting the 2000 games after an IOC inquiry report issued this month found no faults with the city's proposal.

Other candidates are Berlin, Brasilia, Istanbul and Manchester. The IOC will decide on the host in Monte Carlo on Sept. 23.

Peking's Olympic organisers later hit back at the U.S. vote. Peking 2000 Olympic Games Bid Committee (BOBICO) spokesman Xu Jia said that the Chinese capital's bid was in keeping with IOC principles and the "Chinese people's desire to spread the Olympic spirit."

"BOBICO is strongly opposed to this kind of action that wantonly interferes with the rights of the Chinese people, displays contempt for the IOC and tramples under foot Olympic principles."

The IOC and its president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, condemned as interference a similar June resolution by the House of Representatives human rights subcommittee.

Mr. Xu said the selection of the 2000 Olympics host city was an internal affair of the IOC, in whose affairs no individual or

organisation should interfere. Despite the U.S. resolution, Mr. Xu expressed confidence the IOC would "strictly respect all the Olympic principles and conscientiously and independently make its own decision."

He added: "BOBICO is still fully confident of its bid to host the 2000 Olympics in Peking."

Meanwhile the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) said it was pleased by the way the U.S. House of Representatives directed its protest when it voted Monday to oppose the holding of the 2000 Olympic in China.

Spokesman Mike Moran said USOC officials had asked sponsors of the resolution that it be addressed to Anita Defrantz, a U.S. member of the IOC Executive Board, rather than to the entire IOC, which frowns on government intrusion.

"This is a sensitive issue for the Olympic movement in the United States because we of course fear any negative repercussions that could affect the Olympic Games in Atlanta in 1996 or the candidacy of Salt Lake City for the 2002 Winter Games," Mr. Moran said.

"We are pleased that it (the resolution) will be directed to her," said Mr. Moran, who added that the USOC was in agreement with the issues expressed in the resolution. "We are pleased that the sponsors took the time to listen to us."

During a brief debate House members accused the Chinese government of widespread human rights abuses that they said should disqualify it from hosting the Olympics. Only one member spoke against the resolution.

The resolution cited State Department reports stating that the Chinese government's human rights practices were far short of internationally accepted standards.

It accused that Peking government of suppressing the Tibetans and their culture, repressing religion and exporting goods made by forced labour.

The resolution also said that former Peking Mayor Chen Xitong, who signed the martial law decree prior to the military 1989 crackdown on demonstrators in Peking's Tiananmen Square, had as chairman of the Olympic bid committee "boasted" of the regime's determination to crush dissent.

Opposing the resolution, Rep. Pat Williams said that sport and politics should not be mixed.

He said that the U.S.-organised boycott of the 1980 Moscow games had been a mistake because it disappointed athletes and did nothing to bring down the iron curtain.

Representative Tom Lantos, a sponsor of the resolution, said China should be given the chance to earn the right to host the Olympics in the year 2004.

Tapie advised to quit

PARIS (AFP) — Olympique Marseille's (OM) embattled President Bernard Tapie was advised to quit here Tuesday by the head of French television.

President of public company France Television Herve Bourges argued Mr. Tapie, a Socialist politician and entrepreneur whose club is at the centre of a bribes scandal, should go so that there was no mix-up between his political and football affairs.

Mr. Bourges said: "Questions of personality should not influence the destiny of OM, that's why I think certain people should think things over... and stand aside."

Bernard Tapie must appreciate the situation and realise that, after leading OM to the top, he should make sure no more confusion is possible between his career, in politics or business, and the management of his club."

European and French champions Marseille face disgrace over an alleged attempt to rig a crucial league match last season against Valenciennes. They could be thrown out of European Cup competition if found guilty.



Former trainer of the Valenciennes team Boro Primorac (right) reads a magazine Monday sitting next to his lawyer Jean-Jacques Bertrand before being heard by Judge Bernard Beffy (AFP photo)

Club manager Jean-Louis Bernes, who resigned last week, has been accused of trying to "bribe three opposition players to throw the match and, although Mr. Tapie has not been implicated, he has been gradually drawn into the scandal."

His name was at the centre of questioning Monday when Boro Primorac, the Valenciennes coach at the time, claimed to investigate manager Bernard Beffy that Mr. Tapie approached him to take the blame for the

bribes affair. Mr. Tapie has denied meeting Primorac and offering him money and an alternative coaching position.

Meanwhile, television crews from Bourges' France-2 and France-3 channels were stopped from entering the Marseille ground, apparently under Mr. Tapie's instructions, for their opening match of the season at the weekend, sparking off a storm of protest.

A France-2 cameraman was seen on television being head-butted by a middle-aged Marseille fan and abused by other spectators apparently angered by coverage of the Marseille bribes scandal.

Last week Mr. Tapie left his luxury yacht in Marseille harbour to board a France-3 boat filming the vessel. He grabbed the camera being used and threw it in the sea. His offer of a replacement was rejected by the management who have filed an official complaint with the police.

Young seeks return to winning ways

ROME (R) — American Olympic 400 metres hurdles champion Kevin Young seeks an immediate return to winning ways when the Alpine resort of Sestriere plays host to some of the world's top athletes Wednesday.

Young, previously unbeaten in 26 successive races and red-hot favourite to win gold at next month's World Championships, suffered a shock defeat at the hands of Zambian world cham-

pion Samuel Matete in the London Grand Prix last Friday.

There is an extra incentive for Young since he will drive down the mountain in a Ferrari 348 sports car, valued at \$125,000, if he can better the world record of 46.78 seconds he set as he stormed to Olympic gold in Barcelona last year.

Pole vaulter Sergei Bubka of Ukraine, for whom breaking world records is second nature, and German long jumper Heike Drechsler will have their eyes on the same prize.

Olympic champion Drechsler recorded the longest jump by a woman in history with a leap of 7.63 metres at the 2,000 metre ski resort last year.

But she was denied a place in the record books by a wind reading of just one centimetre the maximum permitted limit of two metres a second.

Bubka has set no fewer than 34 world records indoors and outdoors in his amazing career.

GOREN BRIDGE

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THE MISTAKE OF AN EXPERT

Both vulnerable. South deals.

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The bidding: South West North East
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Opening lead: Four of ♠

Bridge experts have their own impossible dream — perfection. While they admit it is probably unattainable, no one is harder on a star player than he himself. For example, a world champion berated himself for going wrong on this hand. Your job is to find the culprit and the error.

The bidding is interesting. Since

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<p>TODAY</p> <p>Cinema Tel.: 677420</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CONCORD</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Cinema Tel.: 699238</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PLAZA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Adel Imam in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wad Sayyed Al Shaghal</p> <p style="text-align: center;">play (Arabic)</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30</p>	<p>Cinema Tel.: 634144</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PHILADELPHIA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Al Pacino — in</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SCENT OF A WOMAN</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:15, 9 p.m.</p>	<p>Cinema Tel.: 675571</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Nabil Al Mashini Theatre</p> <p>For the first time in Amman you have a date with the National Palestinian Theatre — the Gaza Strip — in a play entitled:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Assassination of Hanthalah</p> <p style="text-align: center;">by artist Saeed Bitar</p> <p>Shows on Friday and Saturday, June 4 and 5 at 8:30 p.m. Please book seats in advance</p>
<p>Nabil & Hisham's Tel.: 625155</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AHLAN THEATRE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AHLAN NABIL AND HISHAM THEATRE</p> <p>The theatre will be closed in preparation for "Ahlam Arab Summit" play which will be shown at the Jerash Festival for Culture and Arts.</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">FORD TAURUS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DUTY UNPAID '1989 MODEL'</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WHITE COLOR EXCELLENT CONDITION</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CONTACT TEL : 685201 , FAX : 685203</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PRICE : 6000 J.D.</p>	

Turkish minister sees visit to Jordan as highly positive

Cetin postpones visit to Israel, hopes for early solution to Mideast conflict

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin Tuesday wound up a three-day visit to Jordan with a highly positive assessment of Jordanian-Turkish relations and identical viewpoints on several regional and international political issues.

Addressing a press conference, Mr. Cetin also announced that he had postponed a visit to Israel because of the "developments on the Israeli-Lebanese border," but refused to characterise the postponement as a signal of Turkish criticism of Israel for its three-day assault on its northern neighbour.

"We prefer not to let the actual tension to overshadow this visit and I decided to postpone my visit to a more favourable time when the hostilities would come to an end," Mr. Cetin said.

"It is not a cancellation... it is not a protest, it is just postponed," Mr. Cetin said.

Mr. Cetin condemned the escalation of hostilities on the Israeli-Lebanese front, saying they undermined the Middle East peace process.

"We condemn the recent operations that have caused casualties on the civilian population and we appeal for an immediate cessation of hostilities," he said.

"Such massive use of force... can lead to further escalation and does harm the peace process, especially at a period when a new momentum is being sought," he said.

Mr. Cetin, the first Turkish foreign minister to pay an official visit to Jordan since 1980, described as "very fruitful" his talks with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, who is also foreign minister, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan and Planning Minister Ziad Fariz.

"I also witnessed that there is a mutual determination and the political will to further strengthen our bilateral relations in all fields," he said.

Topics discussed in the talks, he said, included the Middle East peace process, the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia in the former Soviet



Hikmet Cetin

Union.

Turkey expressed its "earnest hope that the (peace) talks would contribute to the achievement, as soon as possible, of a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian question and to the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338," he said.

The minister said he also called for an urgent solution to end the "ongoing bloodshed and ethnic cleansing by the aggressors (Serbs and Croats)" in Bosnia-Herzegovina, he said, adding Turkey also "expressed the pressing need to put an end to the Azeri-Armenian conflict as well as the need to evacuate Azeri territories occupied by Armenia."

During his talks with Mr. Fariz, Mr. Cetin said, the two sides agreed to work on an agreement on the promotion of protection of investments in addition to examining the possibilities of establishing joint ventures in third countries, particularly in the republics of the former Soviet Union in Central Asia and Caucasus.

Mr. Cetin, who visited the Jordan Valley as well as the Beqaa refugee camp, called for "more international attention and aid" for Palestinian refugees.

Answering questions at the press conference, Mr. Cetin implicitly criticised Israel as well as resistance groups in South Lebanon for starting the latest round of hostilities.

He said he contacted Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres of his decision to postpone his visit

to Israel, where he was scheduled to arrive late Tuesday.

Mr. Cetin said Turkey believed that Jerusalem should be an essential part of any Middle East peace settlement.

Noting that Jerusalem is Holy to the three monotheistic religions, he said the Holy City "could not be monopolised by anyone."

"We cannot reach lasting peace solutions without including Jerusalem," he said, adding that the timing of including the status of the Holy City in the peace negotiations was not important as long as it is part of the agenda and will be discussed at one point or another in the talks.

The Turkish foreign minister said his country, an active participant in the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process, stood ready to contribute to the negotiations, but no specific role or project had yet been defined for Turkey.

He said Turkey was ready to offer its water resources to help resolve the regional crisis over water provided "there is someone who will invest" in developing them.

According to Mr. Cetin, Turkey and Syria are hoping to conclude an agreement before the end of the year on water flowing down from Turkey.

"Iraq, which is also dependent on the downstream water, will not be a party to the accord, but is welcome to a tripartite meeting on the issue," he said.

In the meantime, Iraq will continue to get "a certain percentage" of water that reaches Syria and flowing down to Iraq territory, he added.

Mr. Cetin expressed confidence that Ankara and Baghdad could work out an agreement on transit fee for Iraqi oil flowing through Iraqi pipelines running through Turkish territory to the Mediterranean if the Iraqis manage to reach an accord with the U.N. on a one-time sale of oil.

The pipelines were closed by Turkey immediately after the U.N. Security Council imposed a trade embargo on Iraq following the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Mr. Cetin denied reports that Turkey had started processing Iraqi oil left in the pipeline when it was closed.



TERRIFIED: A Lebanese woman cries as terrified others look on in Tyre, South Lebanon, after Israeli shells in their village of Sydeqin (AFP photo)

Failure awaits Christopher mission if without acceptable ideas — Shaath

By Wafa Amr
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A Palestinian official said on Tuesday that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region next week would be doomed to failure if he did not bring with him acceptable formulas on Palestinian interim self-government in the occupied territories.

Nabil Shaath, political adviser to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, said Palestinians would not submit any more amendments to the U.S. draft paper on interim self-rule until the U.S. and Palestinians agree on the key points of contention in the paper — Jerusalem and the extent of Palestinian jurisdiction on the occupied territories.

Another PLO official said that in preparation for Mr. Christopher's regional tour, the U.S. demanded article-by-article detailed amendments on its June 30 paper.

The U.S. document, which aimed at bridging Palestinian-Israeli differences on the five-year interim period, was rejected by Palestinians as a basis for negotiations. Bowing to Arab and American pressures, the PLO accepted to make alterations to the U.S. document which were presented to U.S. chief peace coordinator Dennis Ross "during his visit to occupied Jerusalem earlier this month."

The amendments sought by the Palestinians related to the status of Jerusalem and territorial jurisdiction in the occupied territories.

They were: "For the interim period, the Palestinian Interim Self-Government Authority will exercise its territorial jurisdiction on the occupied Palestinian territories which were not under Israeli control on June 4, 1967 including Jerusalem."

"The two sides have agreed that these territories are

viewed as a single territorial unit, whose integrity will be preserved during the interim period, under one system of law."

The PLO official said the U.S. had opposed the Palestinian demands, and said it did not intend to remain hostage to these two amendments.

Dr. Shaath, speaking from Cairo, told the Jordan Times that Palestinians "refuse to submit any further concessionary formulas, and this is our final position which we will not back on."

"If Christopher does not bring with him an altered paper that meets our demands, his trip to the region will be worthless," Dr. Shaath added. "We do not wish him failure, but we will not accept anything less than total Palestinian territorial jurisdiction on the occupied territories, including Jerusalem."

Ross informed them that the U.S. draft was not final document, and that the U.S. would seek compromise formulas and amendments until the parties involved reach an acceptable formula.

"We believe that the Americans intend to pursue a shuttle diplomacy at this stage, instead of the negotiations rounds, until they present their final paper, that will lead to a declaration of principles," another PLO official said.

H. Shaath said the PLO expects a settlement to be imposed on Israel and the Palestinians in six months time.

"Whether American settlement will be acceptable to us or to the Israelis or to both of us, I don't know," he said.

Some Palestinian officials express concern about the role of the U.S. in the peace talks, and try to analyse former American peace plans in order to build a vision of the general features of the future settlement.

"We believe that Christ-

opher will bring with him a plan on the final status, an amended version of the 1972 United Arab Kingdom," said a Tunis-based PLO official.

This, he said, would entail that Jordan declare the retraction of its disengagement decision with the West Bank, and the Palestinians' approval to unite with Jordan in a United Arab Kingdom. At that stage, Israel and the United Arab Kingdom would start negotiations on the final status, which will be initially implemented in Gaza and Jericho, to be followed at a later stage by negotiations on the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242.

"That is why Arafat says that he rejects an Israeli proposal to implement the interim period on Gaza alone, and insists on including Jericho in one deal," the official said.

Advisor to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Osama Al Baz, conveyed to Mr. Arafat an Israeli offer to withdraw from Gaza Strip alone and to start the interim period there, PLO sources said. They said that Mr. Arafat said if Israel withdrew unconditionally from Gaza, he would assume responsibilities there, but that any deal on Gaza should include Jericho as a passage to the outside world, on condition that negotiations on the rest of the 1967 occupied territories would be parallel to the disengagement.

"We also expect Christopher to carry with him a response to an idea that was carried by Ross, which calls for leapfrog over the interim period and entering directly into permanent status negotiations," Dr. Shaath said.

In order to allay their fears that the interim period would not be permanent, Palestinians have been exploring different ways in order to know the features of the final status of the occupied territories in advance.

Washington 'committed to military action in Somalia'

MOGADISHU (AFP) — The United States backs more military action in Somalia despite criticism of the United Nations for getting involved in clashes with Somalia gunmen, a State Department official said Tuesday.

"The military option will remain there," said David Shinn, the State Department's Somalia coordinator who headed a six-person U.S. inter-agency team that left here Tuesday after a one-week mission to reassess the U.N. operation.

The U.S. review followed seven weeks of escalating violence in which Somali gunmen have killed 36 U.N. peacekeepers.

"This is a triple process, on the political, humanitarian and security front," said Shinn.

Italy, which has the third largest troop contingent in Somalia, has complained that the U.N. was overemphasising military force, rather than dialogue, to pacify the country.

But Mr. Shinn stressed that the upsurge of bloodshed was limited to the south Mogadishu stronghold of fugitive warlord Mohammed Farah Aideed. Relief and rehabilitation were continuing elsewhere in the country devastated by war and famine, he said.

"The low-level urban guerrilla warfare is restricted not only to Mogadishu but to south Mogadishu," Mr. Shinn said.

"With the exception of Mogadishu, there has been tremendous progress," he told reporters at Mogadishu airport before flying to Addis Ababa.

From there he will go to Rome and then Paris in a bid to calm the row between the U.N. and Italy, which has rejected the world body's demand for the recall of its force commander here, General Bruno Loh.

Mr. Shinn, due back in Washington Friday, said he had met several officials of Gen. Aideed's Somali National Alliance (SNA) faction, blamed for the attacks on U.N. peacekeepers.

But he stressed that he had not been negotiating with them, only "listening to their views, which of course were very critical."

He said that "throughout the vast majority of the country there is a tremendous amount of support for the U.N."

He said it was a time "to show resolve and determination" in the U.N.'s first intervention under the controversial Chapter 7 of its charter, which allows offensive military action to restore peace.

He said the Somalia operation, certain to influence U.N. action in other trouble-spots such as Bosnia-Herzegovina, "won't fail."

U.S. Ambassador Robert Gossende said he expected "no dramatic things" to change because of Mr. Shinn's visit. But he admitted that there was "a great deal of concern over how this first ever peacekeeping and peace-making mission is going."

COLUMN

Japan emperor, empress visit quake victims

TOKYO (AP) — Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko visited Tuesday the victims of a recent earthquake that demolished hundreds of homes and killed at least 196 people. The royal couple was surrounded by a small crowd of residents on Okushiri, an island 770 kilometres north of Tokyo, which was hit by tidal waves set off by a July 12 temblor. As of Tuesday, 196 people were confirmed dead and 42 missing from the quake, mostly on the island, police said. The tremor registered 7.8 on the Richter Scale.

Nationally televised news showed a smiling Emperor Akihito conversing with the victims after arriving by helicopter. They inspected a residential neighbourhood that had been reduced to a field of scattered wood and broken furniture. They also visited a gymnasium serving as a temporary shelter, pausing to talk to the victims. Under the postwar constitution, the emperor is the symbol of the nation and holds no political power. Two years ago, the couple paid a visit to the victims of a volcanic eruption in southern Japan that killed 43.

The sight of Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko getting on their knees to talk to victims was viewed as symbolic of a modernising, more accessible, imperial family. Until Emperor Akihito's father Hirohito denied his divinity after the end of World War II, the emperor was revered as a god descended from the sun goddess.

Blind sailor starts trans-Atlantic journey

BALTIMORE, Maryland (AFP) — A 58-year-old blind man set sail in an effort to complete the first solo crossing of the Atlantic for a blind person. Hank Dekker, who lost his sight to glaucoma 16 years ago, is headed for Plymouth, England, in a 30-foot sailboat equipped with a special radar detector that sets off an alarm whenever a signal from another boat is detected. "First and foremost this voyage is for me," Mr. Dekker said before being given a rousing sendoff at Baltimore harbour by 100 well-wishers. "But it's also an example. Look at all these people." Mr. Dekker's ultralight boat is named NFB for its sponsor, the National Federation of the Blind.

In 1983, Mr. Dekker became the first blind person to sail solo from San Francisco to Hawaii, surviving hurricane Henriette. He won third place in a 1986 solo trans-Pacific race against two dozen other sighted sailors. Mr. Dekker was to stop in Cape May, New Jersey, before the three-to-four-week crossing starting Wednesday or Thursday.

Clinton unpopular? just look at Congress

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton can take heart from his mediocre approval ratings — once again he beat out the U.S. Congress, which has the support of only one in four Americans, a new poll found Monday. Congress, never a public favourite, won the approval of only 24 per cent of the people in a Cable News Network-USA Today/Gallup poll. The poll said 65 per cent did not approve of its performance, while 11 per cent had no opinion. In February, 27 per cent approved, 54 per cent disapproved and 19 per cent had no opinion. In a related question, however, 58 per cent of those polled thought their own representative should be re-elected, while 25 per cent said no. Another 17 per cent had no opinion. That has been the trend in polls — Congress as a whole gets blasted while voters see their own representative as the exception. The last time only 24 per cent approved of Congress in the same poll was in October 1990. Then, 68 per cent disapproved and eight per cent had no opinion. Clinton's most recent approval rating was 41 per cent, against 49 per cent who disapproved of his performance. That was down four percentage points from his rating earlier in July.

U.S. cancels visas for Escobar's relatives

SANTAFE DE BOGOTA (AFP) — The United States has cancelled visas for several family members and friends of fugitive drug baron Pablo Escobar, the U.S. embassy here said. Embassy spokesman Robert Dancy said visas previously granted to Escobar's relatives and associates were annulled recently because circumstances had changed since they had been issued.

Yeltsin under fire over rouble

Combined agency dispatches

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin faced biting criticism Tuesday over the government's chaotic reform of the rouble, as people clogged bank branches to exchange their worthless banknotes.

Mr. Yeltsin's political rival, Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov, stepped up efforts to capitalise on anger over the central bank's invalidation of old rouble notes. He told regional economic managers the entire measure should be repealed. A day earlier, he demanded that it just be revised.

"The people have been given a shock by the actions of the central bank and the cabinet," Mr. Khasbulatov said, the Interfax news

agency reported. "We have to recognise these as illegal and think about whether it would be right for the central bank to repeal this decision in next few days."

Central Bank Chairman Viktor Geraschenko joined the finger-pointing, telling the Associated Press that Mr. Yeltsin knew about the surprise step "in general terms" before it was announced Saturday.

"The central bank cannot make decisions to introduce a national currency without the agreement of the highest leadership," Mr. Geraschenko said.

Mr. Geraschenko is under investigation by Russia's chief prosecutor, Valentin Stepanov, for allegedly "depriving Russians of their constitutional right to use

and possess money."

On Monday, billions of pre-1993 rouble notes became invalid. Citizens could exchange only 35,000 roubles (\$35) in cash, with amounts above that credited to bank deposits. The action was designed to stem inflation and nullify roubles outside Russia's control in other former Soviet republics.

The measure seemed to hit hardest at pensioners and any Russians who have hoarded roubles. Tensions remained high in Moscow as people pushed and shoved in line at bank branches to exchange their old roubles.

At a train station, private traders were paying \$1 for 1,300 old roubles, saying privately that they have been able to circumvent the limit on cash exchanges.

Israelis raze Lebanese villages

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shelling north of the zone to thwart Katyusha rocket attacks. "It's hell here," said Mohammad Abu Zeid, 65, who with his wife, 11 children and three goats just escaped on foot during a bombardment of Jarjouch village in Iqlim Al Toufa, a smoke-covered bastion of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God).

"We held on for two days but we have a limit and that was it. No one helped us. No one is giving us food," he said in nearby Houmeim village. "When things calm down we will return."

He said the only people who remained in Jarjouch were five villagers, trapped because they were too old or poor to leave.

Israeli military source said the "operation had already gone through three planned phases since it was launched Sunday morning."

— Air strikes on 10 Hizbollah and Palestinian "bases."

— Air strikes on another 39 bases.

— Heavy artillery fire to force an exodus from southern Lebanon. Naval blockade of ports of Tyre and Sidon.

The fourth phase, begun Tuesday, was to target directly the villages, the sources said.

The Jerusalem Post reported that artillery dug in in the hills of the "security zone" was firing to destroy villages in southern Lebanon to prevent guerrillas using

them as cover and launching rockets.

"Until now we have fired around the villages to scare the residents away," a lieutenant identified as "S" told the Post from an artillery position atop Mount Hermon on Monday.

"Tonight we are firing to destroy these places to rubble," the lieutenant and position commander said.

Orders came every few minutes to fire another 43-kilo shell at a "hostile village about 25 kilometres away, the Post said.

According to military sources more than 5,000 shells have been fired into Lebanon since Sunday morning.

Israeli gunboats also blasted the coastline between Sidon and the port of the Tyre further south, including an area near a Syrian intelligence post.

Israeli warplanes also carried out four raids on the southern sector of the Bekaa Valley, killing a Hizbollah fighter, an elderly man and a seven-year-old girl.

Lebanese rescue workers said Tuesday's toll was higher as they could not reach many villages because of the firing.

In the shell-blasted village of Kfar Hatta, residents flew white sheets as flags of surrender from houses while Red Cross workers tried to bring a truck-load of supplies into the area.

Fires raged in homes and across hillsides facing the Israeli zone as hundreds of packed cars

jammed the main highway north to Beirut and families hid in alleyways near the battle zones.

Israel's militia allies on Monday ordered residents of 12 more villages deeper in Lebanon to evacuate by noon (0900 GMT) as Israeli big guns reached beyond the areas already pounded.

The unusually bustling market town of Nabatieh looked like a virtual ghost town on Tuesday. Virtually all its 15,000 people had fled. Only ambulances sped through its empty streets.

At least 20 shells a minute were hammering the town and surrounding area as Israeli warplanes firing screamed down on nearby villages trying to end the guerrilla resistance.

Israel Monday warned residents of South Lebanon to leave and army radio said up to 200,000 Lebanese had fled their homes since the operation began.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, visiting the Israeli border town of Kiryat Shmona, would not predict how long the battle would continue.

"We are not talking about weeks or months, Mr. Peres told reporters. "We must generate the required pressure and it is being applied."

Israel Radio said on Tuesday more artillery, armoured personnel carriers and heavy engineering equipment had been moving towards Lebanon since Monday afternoon, continuing a buildup that has gone on for three weeks.

Regent expresses alarm

(Continued from page 1)

tion of U.N. Security Council Resolution 425," it said.

It criticised Arab countries' stands. "While the aggression continues the Arabs stand by with their arms folded," it said. "This situation should end and we should learn lessons from previous disasters that befell us all."

"Only through solidarity, cohesion and unity can the Arabs confront the conspiracies and the aggression."

Referring to Israeli practices in general, the statement said that such aggressions and those being practised by Israel in Palestine and Israel's attitude at the negotiations table provide a concrete and living proof that Israel is lying about peace.

"The Lower House of Parliament calls on the Arab countries and the Arab League to take quick steps to stop the aggression and to restore solidarity and pursue diplomatic efforts in the international arena to put an end to Israel's atrocities," it concluded.

save face among Syrian units stationed in Lebanon."

"Those who are eager to implement aggressive resolutions against Iraq will today bury their heads in the sand and turn a blind eye to the aggression against Lebanon," the paper said.

"Will the Security Council meet within hours... to issue resolutions against Israel?" it asked.

"Will Tomahawk and cruise missile units be mobilised to confront the Israeli aggression?"

Tehran Radio quoted President Hashemi Rafsanjani as criticising the international community for not intervening.

"Unfortunately, responsible international organisations and the arrogant powers who assert that they are the guardians of international standards are encouraging them (Israelis) with their silence, which is a sign of approval," Mr. Rafsanjani said.

Hamid Al Gahid, secretary general of the Jeddah-based Organisation of Islamic Conference, said in a statement that he "condemns vigorously these Israeli aggressions."

Arabs outraged over Lebanon

(Continued from page 1)

to give Middle East peace a chance.

"All parties must give the peace process a chance and let us concentrate on avenues for achieving peace on the basis of the 'land for peace' principle," Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa told reporters.

Mr. Musa said he discussed the latest violence in Lebanon with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres by telephone on Monday.

"I told him Israel must stop all military operations immediately," Mr. Musa said.

Asked about Israel's reaction, he said: "Contacts are continuing."

An Iraqi newspaper accused Syria of standing on the sidelines and allowing Israeli forces to blast Lebanon.

"Syria has been a mere spectator" of the offensive, charged Babel newspaper.

It said Syria's announcement Monday that its anti-aircraft guns had opened up against Israeli warplanes was only made "to

Majali cites loopholes in law

(Continued from page 1)

is causing severe damage to the Jordanian economy.

Jordan's commitment to the U.N. sanctions against Iraq has destroyed Jordan's markets in Iraq and its traditional markets in the Gulf and has increased the foreign debts on the country, further obstructing its economic progress, Dr. Majali said.

Referring to inter-Arab relations, he said: "We as Arabs take pride in our national stand based on the idea of serving higher national interests."

"Jordanians have always extended a friendly hand to all Arabs and hope that the Arab states will unite to confront the various challenges."

The delegation invited Dr. Majali to visit Salt and study its residents' needs. The prime minister accepted the invitation.

Christopher cuts short visit

(Continued from page 1)

able restraint so far."

Mr. Christopher plans to visit Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Syria early next week as previously scheduled, but will miss meetings with Asian leaders and their trading partners in Singapore that had been set for Wednesday and with Australian officials that had been set for Thursday.

Mr. Christopher decided early Tuesday morning to return to Washington and discussed the matter with President Bill Clinton by phone, a U.S. official in Mr. Christopher's travelling party told reporters.

During the day, between meetings with Asian leaders in Singapore, Mr. Christopher spoke by phone with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa.

"Rabin asked Christopher not to put off his trip to the Middle East in light of what was going on there. The secretary said he did not have any intention of doing that," the official said.

In the conversation with Mr. Sharaa, "the secretary urged maximum restraint on all parties, asked Sharaa to work on ways in

which the situation might be relieved in some respect, to think about ways to de-escalate the violence," the official said.

The official said that these two conversations "confirmed the judgment that he'd made, and the president concurred, to return to the United States to work on this and other matters before he goes on the trip."

Mr. Christopher was to arrive in Washington around 8 a.m. on Wednesday morning (1200 GMT), the official said.

The Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) said Mr. Christopher and Mr. Sharaa discussed "the serious military escalation in Lebanon, the concern stemming from its continuation and its effect on the peace process."

In Israel, Mr. Rabin's spokesman said: "Our understanding is that (Mr. Christopher) is going to come as scheduled." But he refused to reveal any details of the conversation.